

Special counsel's office does about face

After two months of contention, feds are not rolling back protections for les/gay workers.

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'No low flow'

River residents oppose reducing water flow.

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Windows on the world

Highlights from 47th SF International Film Fest.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



Prosecutor Chris Lamiero holds a picture of Gwen Araujo

Araujo trial opens

by Zak Szymanski

Weeks before Gwen Araujo was allegedly assaulted, beaten, strangled, hanged, and buried, the three men accused of murdering her had already decided, according to Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero, that death was the appropriate sentence for a person who presented as female but was in fact biologically male.

Araujo, 17, of the East Bay city of Newark, was born as a male named Eddie but lived as a female. With a beating that allegedly took place at a house party and lasted for hours, she was killed early on October 4, 2002, after her biological sex was learned. The assailants allegedly then drove her body to a remote location, buried it, and went out to breakfast.

In opening arguments presented at the Hayward Hall of Justice before the jury and Judge Harry Sheppard on Wednesday, April 14, Lamiero painted a detailed picture of the three accused men and how they came to know and even value Araujo as a person and sexual partner.

Jose Merel, Michael Magidson, and Jason Cazares are charged with murder with a hate crime enhancement for what prosecutors and witnesses have described as a calculated attack. Attorneys for the men have argued that Araujo's murder was a crime of passion committed in the heat of the moment after the defendants learned of a "sexual deception." All three men have pleaded not guilty to the crime.

In a straightforward tone with occasional eye contact with the defendants, Lamiero presented his "road map of what counsel believes the evidence will show" to the jury.

In the summer of 2002, Araujo — who was known to the men as "Lida" — began hanging out at the Merel home, a place of nearly nightly partying with alcohol, marijuana, and dominoes games. For Araujo, it was "a chance to be accepted by a social group as a girl," said Lamiero. Attractive, flirty, and outspoken, Araujo became a regular presence in the house,

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Newsom: City stronger due to gay marriages

by Matthew S. Bajko

As thousands of same-sex couples descended on City Hall to wed, antigay groups derided Mayor Gavin Newsom's decision to grant those couples marriage licenses as "civil anarchy," and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger feared it could lead to rioting in the streets.

For the newly elected Newsom, those 19 days in February and March united a city known more for its polarizing political battles than civic pride. The city's outpouring of support for the mayor as well as the gay couples, proved what he had argued during his mayoral campaign last year that "indeed 'Together We Can.'

"It has done more to bring this city together than anything we have done in years and that matters. There is an intangible in that," Newsom told the *Bay Area Reporter* during an interview in his City Hall office Tuesday evening. "During the campaign we talked about returning a sense of pride and civic support to San Francisco. But how do you do that? How can that happen, civic pride?"

His answer came from the overwhelmingly positive feedback he received for standing up to right-wing zealots and Republican lawmakers determined to force gay people to marry.

I hear it all the time. I am proud to live in the city

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Rick Gerharter



Gay groups press lawmakers on marriage

by Matthew S. Bajko

Turning up the heat on California lawmakers, gay marriage proponents will take to the streets today to take part in tax day protests in San Francisco, Oakland, and cities throughout the state.

A yearly protest aimed at bringing attention to the tax burdens gay couples face because they are not allowed to marry, this year's event has taken on added meaning now that thousands of same-sex couples have tied the knot in San Francisco; Portland, Oregon; New Mexico; and New York, with thousands more planning to wed next month in Massachusetts.

Despite local jurisdictions recognizing gay and lesbian couples' right to marry, federal authorities refuse to allow such couples to file their taxes jointly. In addition to decrying the discriminatory tax policy, the street protests will also add momentum to the fight over a gay marriage bill pending in Sacramento.

Introduced by openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), AB1967, the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act, has been stuck in the Assembly Rules Committee waiting to be sent to the judiciary committee. Gay rights groups as well as Leno expect the measure to be heard by the judiciary committee on Tuesday, April 20.

But as of Wednesday, the bill had yet to be sent out of the rules committee. Pressure has been mounting on both Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles), and the chair

of the rules committee, Cindy Montanez (D-San Fernando), to ensure the bill is heard before an April 23 deadline.

As reported last week, some Sacramento lobbyists are concerned Nunez and Montanez are trying to kill the bill in committee due to election-year politics. Despite telling the *Bay Area Reporter* last week he did not believe a community response was needed to pressure the lawmakers, Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors sent members of his lobbying group an "urgent" e-mail last Friday asking them to e-mail both Nunez and members of the rules committee "urging them to make sure that it acts on Monday to refer AB1967."

According to the action alert, "both the speaker and rules chair have 100 percent records from Equality California and Chairwoman Montanez is a coauthor of AB1967. They are true leaders who stand up for what they believe in and support equal rights. That is why we are asking them to have the rules committee put an end to divisive rumors that the bill is being killed because of election year politics."

On Monday, April 12, no action had been taken in regard to the bill. Molly McKay, associate executive director of EQCA, and director of Marriage Equality California, said

the organization is still anticipating the bill will be heard on April 20. As for the action alert, she said, "We need to make sure it happens, that it why we are urging people to send their letters in."



State Senator Pete Knight

Knight sees the light?

In another attempt to dampen resistance to having the bill heard, EQCA revealed last week that state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale) has agreed not to block passage of the gay marriage measure. Trumpeting what it said is "a sure sign that supporters of equal marriage rights for same-sex couples have momentum on their side," the gay rights group sent out a release last Friday that stated Knight, author of Proposition 22, California's law designed to prevent recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states, now says that he would "support something short of marriage" for same-sex couples if advocates would give up on equal marriage recognition.

According to the group, Knight made those comments in a March 24 meeting with EQCA's legislative advocate, Steve Hansen. During that discussion, Knight announced that he would support rights for same-sex couples, such as those set forth in domestic

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Gump's gets into the gay wedding spirit

by Cynthia Laird

Some same-sex couples who recently tied the knot in San Francisco got a surprise in their mailboxes recently, when Gump's, the landmark San Francisco jewelry and home furnishings store, sent out letters inviting the couples to open a gift registry.

Kathleen Mailliard Rende, the wedding and gift registry manager, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, April 13 that she spearheaded the idea of the letter, with the full support and backing of store management. Gump's president Jed Pogran, she added, was one of those who took advantage of the same-sex marriages that flooded San Francisco City Hall between February 12 and March 11, when the California Supreme Court ordered a halt to the nuptials.

"Congratulations on your marriage and your decision to join together in the celebration and commitment that accompanies such an important step forward," Mailliard Rende's letter begins. "I wish you joy, and support you in your affirmation of love and devotion toward each other."

The letter then invites couples to make an appointment to set up a wedding registry, so that family and friends can choose "meaningful, personal gifts for your life together."



Gump's wedding registry manager Kathleen Mailliard Rende

Mailliard Rende said that the idea to send the letter to about 2,000 same-sex couples was a way to show support for the gay and lesbian community as well as a marketing tool for the store. Around 4,000 same-sex couples got marriage licenses in San Francisco, and one of those was Pogran and his partner.

Reached Wednesday, April 14, Pogran told the *B.A.R.* that he and his partner of 31 years, Gary McGregor, got married on March 8. In fact, he was out of the office Tuesday when the *B.A.R.* contacted Mailliard Rende because he and McGregor were celebrating

their anniversary, he said.

"It was terrific," he said of his March wedding. "Because we've been in a relationship for a long time and have the complete support of our families and friends, I didn't expect it to be as powerful emotionally. But it was powerful and affirmed my belief that it's an important thing."

Pogran, who's been president of the 150-year-old Gump's since 1997, said the store has set up gift registries for same-sex couples who've held commitment ceremonies for years. As for sending out the recent letter to same-sex

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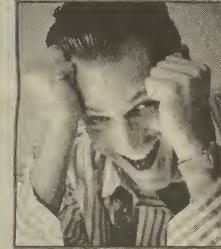
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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Marriage media training

Back by popular demand, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the LGBT Community Center will present a second marriage media training this Saturday, April 17, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the center, 1800 Market Street.

Same-sex couples who are married or plan to marry, activists, community leaders, and straight allies are welcome to attend the training to learn how to effectively access and engage the media in local communities. More than 60 participants attended the previous training, and organizers said the upcoming workshop would focus on the same curriculum while providing current messaging and new video reels.

The media training will provide the techniques and tools necessary to become more effective spokespeople around marriage equality, allow participants to practice interviewing techniques, and learn various ways to access and engage media professionals.

To attend the training, RSVP to Eddie Gutierrez, GLAAD's southwest regional media manager, at gutierrez@glad.org or (323) 634-2011.

Marriage symposium

Recent court decisions and events have launched a national controversy about expanding the right to marry to same-sex couples. On Monday, April 19, a symposium

posium organized by the Institute of Governmental Studies and the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California, Berkeley, will look at the legal and political aspects of the debate.

The first panel, "The Law" will feature eight legal scholars, practitioners, and experts from around the country, including California Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carol Migden, who will present their diverse perspectives on the legal and constitutional issues surrounding the same-sex marriage dispute. It takes place from 1-3 p.m.

A second panel, "The Politics" takes place from 3:15-5 p.m. and addresses the political fallout in this presidential election year. Four panelists will represent both sides of the debate, including speakers from Concerned Women for America, the Campaign for California Families, and the Human Rights Campaign.

The afternoon symposium is free and open to the public, and will be held in the Lipman Room, 8th floor, Barrows Hall, on the UC campus. The symposium will also be made available via webcast on the campus events webcasting service. For more information, visit http://igs.Berkeley.edu/events/Symposium_same_sex_marriage.html or call (510) 642-1474.

New E. Bay senior program

Lavender Seniors in the East Bay has started a new monthly lunchtime gathering called

"Lavender Lunch Bunch" to increase opportunities for LGBT seniors to come together in mutual support. The first event will be Thursday, April 22, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, at Lake Merritt in Oakland. The event will include lunch, discussion, and games.

"The number one need expressed by LGBT seniors we know is the desire for more opportunities to come together," said Jeff Vessels, director of Lavender Seniors.

Added Peggy Moore, Lavender Seniors' outreach specialist, "Lavender Lunch Bunch provides a way for people to meet each other, create and strengthen friendships, enjoy entertainment, and learn about community resources."

The new program is made possible by the city of Oakland's Department of Human Resources. It is open to any LGBT senior in the East Bay. Lavender Seniors also has its popular monthly potluck on the second Saturday of each month at its office in San Leandro. For more information, call Lavender Seniors at (510) 667-9655.

NCLR gala next week

Former pro football player Esera Tuaolo and former University of Florida women's softball catcher Andrea Zimbardi will be special guests at the National Center for Lesbian Rights' 27th anniversary gala dinner-dance benefit Saturday, April 24 at Moscone page 23 ►

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Keynote Speaker: Walter B. Schubert, Founder and CEO of the Gay Financial Network (www.gfn.com) and the first openly gay member of the New York Stock Exchange.

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First crop of Pride marshals picked

by Zak Szymanski

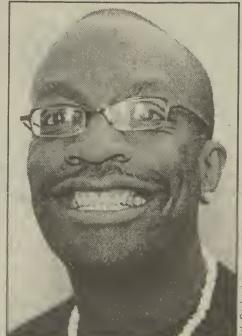
The San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration last week announced public voting results for Pride parade grand marshals.

Longtime activist and community advocate Calvin Gipson received the public nod for individual marshal, with 397 votes. Drag Queen sensation and Trannyshack founder Heklina came in a close second, with 386 votes. Community members cast a total of 2,271 votes, Pride officials said.

As a past president of SFLGBT Pride, Gipson helped the event to grow in numbers, diversity, and visibility, but it is his "other" life as an activist and advocate for which many community members feel most grateful.

As managing director of human services for Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, he directs the daily free meals program that annually serves over 1 million free nutritious meals to the poor. The program also hires people from the street to help in the effort, giving survivors of violence, addiction, and homelessness a second chance to rebuild their lives.

His 12 years of leadership in various LGBT organizations include serving as president of Frameline, producers of the San Francisco International Lesbian



Grand marshal Calvin Gipson

and Gay Film Festival; as a board member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus; and on the speaker's bureau for Community United Against Violence.

"It's an honor. I'm very excited and very humbled because I came to San Francisco to be free," Gipson told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Gipson added that "it's a great time to be gay" in San Francisco and hopes to help bridge the divide between the gay and African American communities.

"What I'd like to do is put a black face on gay America and a gay face on black America," he said, explaining that there are still challenges in both communities.

The public also selected Immigration Equality as the grand marshal in the organization category. The group, originally founded as the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, fights on behalf of the thousands of people who are discriminated against by American immigration law, including bi-national LGBT couples, immigrants with HIV/AIDS, and

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OPEN FORUM

Wavering Democrats

Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) AB1967, the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act, has been stalled in the Assembly Rules Committee since it was introduced in February and time is running out for it to be referred to a policy committee that would set it on the road to debate and a vote. The funny thing is, it seems to be Assembly Democrats – including some of the bill's own coauthors – who are wavering on the matter. Assemblywoman Cindy Montanez (D-San Fernando) is a coauthor of the bill who also happens to be chair of the rules committee. Why hasn't she taken the lead in moving the bill out of her committee? Assemblymen Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) and Joe Nation (D-San Rafael) are also AB1967 coauthors, yet both expressed reservations about the bill in an April 8 article in the alternative *Sacramento News & Review* newspaper.

"If it were my call, I probably would not highlight this issue this year," Nation told the paper. Nation is described in the story by reporter Jeff Kearns as being a supporter of same-sex marriage.

"This is not an easy issue for some of the [Democratic] caucus members, and they've expressed that to the speaker," Yee said. "Right now, we don't need a wedge issue to divide the caucus." Yee has designs on running for the state Senate seat currently held by Jackie Speier. That seat includes portions of San Francisco, and is divided along Castro Street.

Yee and Nation, both from the liberal Bay Area, are trying to have it both ways. They claim to support the LGBT community – and even signed on as coauthors of Leno's bill – while at the same time seem to be working against us in the battle for equal civil marriage rights by making comments aimed at reinforcing the nervousness of state Democrats.

We've long known that legislation related to equal rights for same-sex couples, whether domestic partner rights or gay marriage, has never had an easy time in Sacramento. Every achievement – from former Assemblywoman Carole Migden's initial bill that created the state domestic part-

ner registry to Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg's (D-Los Angeles) AB205 last year that added rights and responsibilities for same-sex registered domestic partners – has been a struggle in a California Legislature that the Democrats have dominated for years. Usually, problems arise from Democratic lawmakers in the more conservative Central Valley, yet now we see Bay Area Democrats getting skittish over a bill that would define state marriage laws as gender neutral for California residents. AB1967 does not violate Proposition 22, which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman but applies to those marriages performed in other states.

In fact, Proposition 22's author, antigay Republican state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), told Kearns and a lobbyist for Equality California that he might be willing to accept something short of marriage for

same-sex couples. That's a huge breakthrough. While we disagree with Knight's position in opposing same-sex marriage, he acknowledged to *SN&R* that there was little he could do if Democrats get behind Leno's marriage bill.

Yes, this is a presidential election year and, yes, gay marriage was suddenly thrust into the national spotlight when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom authorized same-sex marriages. Yes, Democrats are nervous that the social issue could play into Republicans' hands, especially in the presidential race. But now is the time to move Leno's bill forward.

Leno knows he's pushing the envelope in Sacramento, but that's what we elected him to do. At the very least AB1967 deserves a committee hearing and vote; and the bill's coauthors should be working to make that happen, not trying to sabotage the bill by keeping it stuck in the rules committee. ▼

Editorial



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It is always difficult for an organization when a volunteer leaves. It is nice to know that many times the volunteer leaves because something that was missing is not missing any longer. Self-confidence has returned, stamina has been assured, people skills are no longer rusty. Over the years, I have seen thousands of volunteers pass through our doors. Some are still active, a decade or more since they started. Some

have lost their fight, and are not physically present any longer. Some have returned to high-level positions in business or academia. Others have found true friends to travel with or life partners to share in the increased richness of their lives. Still more have been

renewed, and have been able to go on to work more directly with those in need. Regardless of where they are today, each volunteer at Under One Roof has helped in an impressive achievement. Long before we hit our 15th anniversary later this year, Under One Roof will have reached the \$10 million milestone. Our volunteers will have, with the help of a tiny and dedicated staff, raised \$10 million in support of AIDS service organizations throughout Northern California.

To all who have volunteered at Under One Roof, at one of our participating agencies, or anywhere within the community, please know that your contribution has been meaningful, has been appreciated and has changed lives – including your own. Please continue to make change in a world that needs it. ▼

Volunteerism changes the world

by Paul Olsen

Men, women. Gay, straight, transgender. Teenagers, septuagenarians. Wealthy, in-need. There isn't a description that doesn't apply to the volunteers who have worked at Under One Roof over the past eight-plus years that I have had the pleasure to guide the organization.

My leadership of Under One Roof ended earlier this year and now that I reflect upon the achievements of the organization, it is more clear than ever that no one person can take credit for all that has been accomplished. The army of volunteers that keeps the operation going deserves the credit.

Under One Roof is a nonprofit retail store on Castro Street that was founded almost 15 years ago by a group of volunteers. As they watched their friends and loved ones succumb to AIDS, they fought on many different fronts to combat the disease. Realizing there was a great need for the community to outwardly show support for their efforts, they came together, under one roof, to raise funds for the various AIDS service organizations with which they were connected. The idea was a good one, the success immediate, the planning frustrating and exhilarating all at once. Critical mass was reached, and more volunteers stepped in to work on all aspects of the organization. It is the same everywhere. The tipping point is reached, and the idea becomes reality.

Volunteerism is key to so many things in our lives. There is a bottom line that is achieved through the joint efforts of people who do what they do not for the financial reward, but for a far greater reward: The smile of an elder who has been given the opportunity to have someone to talk to; the knowledge that for this day, several thousand people will have nourishing meals; the

sight of children playing amongst themselves, with no stigma attached to those them living with HIV. In many cases, the rewards hit closer to home. A loved one who is still living with AIDS 20 years later. A marriage of two people who didn't expect to live this long. A more vibrant community, focused on living rather than dying.

Volunteers, like all of us, sometimes need the reminder that it isn't just the immediate work they are doing, but the combination of that one task and all the other tasks they have performed, joined together with the tasks of other volunteers, that makes the real difference. The money raised by so many generous souls allows so much to happen, but it is the hours spent that puts it into practical use. Sweeping the floor, stocking the shelves, ticketing items for sale are but examples of the beginning of the process.

The end is when someone comes into the store, and while shopping, thanks the volunteers for their help because he relies on food from Project Open Hand, or counseling from New Leaf, or has needed emergency assistance from the AIDS Emergency Fund. The end is when a visitor comes in and speaks of how her girlfriend is able to sit up in bed for the first time in weeks, or how she was able to attend a conference organized by peers that truly understood her needs, or how relieved she is that her one friend in the world (which happens to be four-legged) is receiving all the care it needs through one of our participating agencies.

Under One Roof provides more than funding, more even than helping AIDS service organizations provide much needed services. Under One Roof provides a place for people to come together and make a dif-

Guest Opinion



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Facts and friction

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

What does "transgender" have to do with "gay and lesbian"?

This question, in any number of varieties, seems to crop up time and again, and even when it doesn't come up in so many words, there often remains a confusion over this union of seemingly disparate groups in order to form some sort of unified whole.

In the haste to foster inclusion in the last decade, the word "transgender" was added to the name, letterhead, and function of nearly every gay, lesbian, and bisexual organization. Even this newspaper includes transgender-related content: you're soaking in it.

It has almost become commonplace to hear any number of permutations on the LGBT acronym, a convenience created by the inclusion of bisexual and transgender to the larger gay and lesbian movement.

It has just become the thing to do, as nearly every group on the block seeks to be inclusive of the needs of the transgender and gender variant.

In return, most transgender groups have attempted to be a little more visible within the larger context, showing up at Pride parades, community fundraisers, and in the membership rosters of groups large and small.

Yet even with this push to include all who need to be included into some sort of politically correct amalgam, we often forget to learn who it is that is being included, and how we all fit into the big picture.

Take for instance the recent troubles with the Lambda Literary Foundation. In its haste to find appropriate books to fill out the "transgender" category, a poorly-conceived and written book — J. Michael Bailey's *The Man Who Would Be Queen* — with a decidedly transphobic bent ended up on the short list of contenders for the Lambda Literary Awards. This selection led to more than a few hard words from all sides, and a general call by members of the transgender community to "disallow" the Lambda Literary Foundation to even include "trans-

gender" in its mission. [Last month, after the controversy erupted, the Lambda Literary Foundation announced that the book was removed as a finalist, at the request of the awards' judges].

Or consider the Human Rights Campaign, which spent nearly a decade trying to keep transgender-specific language out of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and has still straddled an invisible line between providing some acknowledgement of transgender issues and sticking with attempts to pass bills through Congress that are not transgender-specific in an effort to be politically "safe."

Consider a HRC press release from 2003, which evoked memories of the brutal murder of transgender teenager Gwen Araujo, yet was pushing the need for a non-transgender inclusive hate crimes bill.

Lest we forget the biggest example, the current fight over marriage equality, where defense of marriage laws have been passed to fight against the specter of gay marriage not yet legally provided. While most of the queer and straight media has been silent on the issue, the only cases that have been through the courts thus far using these laws have involved transgender — not gay and lesbian — marriages.

Now I'm not going to say that there aren't some often-distinct differences when one looks at the needs of transgender people versus the needs of others in the community. Most lesbians and gay men are not too worried about the ability to change an "F" to an "M" — or vice versa — on their Social Security records, let alone the Social Security Administration calling the workplaces of many transsexuals and "outing" them to their employers. There are definitely some issues that are specific to one group or another, and these are important to bear in mind if one is trying to be truly inclusive.

Likewise, not all transgender people are ready to be as out and proud as the rest of us. There is still a strong social stigma placed on transgender issues in most places compared to lesbian and gay issues, and this can keep many from wanting to be out — or even

identified as transgender in the first place!

Yet there are many that transcend any boundaries we may create. Hate violence affects us all, and much of the reasons behind it are the same for all of us. Transgender people may be victimized because people think they are a "fag" or a "dyke," while lesbians and gays may be attacked because they are perceived as being overly masculine or effeminate.

There are still some out there who paint transgender people as being some form of "uber-homosexual," one who is simply too gay to remain within their birth sex — and there are still others who like to pretend that all gay men are the limp-wristed, lisping queens and all lesbians are butch women who ride Harleys.

We all stand to win or lose when it comes to bills like the ENDA, because many are not fired because of the sex of their lover, but because they "act gay" — and most of those supposed "clues" are based on gender presentation, not sexual orientation.

Indeed — as I've argued before — one can look at homosexuality itself as a transgender act: for many would argue that a "real woman" would find herself a good man to marry, rather than meeting up with other women. That is where we cross boundaries more than anywhere else — and that's why we simply must learn to work together on the issue of marriage equality.

I know that it isn't just the relationships of many non-transgender-identified couples I've known that hang in the balance: it is my legal same-sex marriage of 12 years — or the mixed-sex marriages of many other transpeople — that stand poised to be lost thanks to prejudicial laws throughout the land.

This is what "transgender" has to do with: our battles are linked in ways that many may not see — and your rights are my rights.

We simply must stand as one, because if we don't, we all stand to lose. ▼

Gwen Smith has actually only been legally married for 11 years and 11 months, but rounded up. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Benefit for lesbian health



The Washington, D.C.-based Mautner Project, a national lesbian health organization, held its first California fundraiser Tuesday, April 13 in Oakland. Joining Executive Director Kathleen DeBold, left, are San Francisco lesbian pioneers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, and Dr. Kate O'Hanlan, who was honored for her groundbreaking work in lesbian health. For more information on the Mautner Project, visit www.mautnerproject.org.

Jane Philomen O'Leary

'Hasta la vista' to full time legislators?

by Wayne Friday

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger ran for office last year vowing to make nice with the Legislature, telling voters that he and he alone could work with the lawmakers of both political parties and "get things done in Sacramento for the people of California." Last week the terminator-turned-politician was relaxing on a beach in Hawaii trying to play Donald Trump.

"You're fired!" That was the message, sort of, that the Republican governor was trying to give to those legislators who, he was telling reporters, should have their full-time lawmaker jobs turned into part-time positions because, Schwarzenegger said, they have too much time to create too many "strange bills."

Whether Schwarzenegger was serious about calling for a part-time Legislature is uncertain, but he told a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* that the Legislature, "doesn't have enough to do" so out of that comes the free time to create those "strange bills."

"I like them when they're scrambling and they really have to work hard. Give them a short period of time, then good work gets done, rather than hanging. That's when they start getting creative with things," the governor told the paper.

Schwarzenegger's comments, however, weren't met too well in Sacramento. "While I'm out here working my ass off, he's pontificating from Hawaii?" quipped state senator President Pro Tem John Burton (D-San Francisco). Members of Schwarzenegger's own Republican Party were reportedly no less amused at his suggestion.

In San Francisco, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he doubted the governor was serious. "At best, the governor's suggestion is ill-considered; as the country's most populous state continues to grow, its problems become even more complex and, certainly, we need a full-time Legislature," Leno said.

Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, the Democrat certain to replace Burton in the state Senate, laughed off Schwarzenegger's suggestion, racking it up to the governor's likely "sitting on the beach in shorts, with a toe in the sand, maybe having had a couple too many Chi-Chi's."

Will California have a part-time Legislature? Don't bet on it. Schwarzenegger will tire of life in Sacramento, move back to Southern California, and go back to filming B-flicks before that happens.

Politics and people

From the *Sacramento News & Review* comes a quote from our very own Assemblyman Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), whose district, incidentally, happens to border Assemblyman Mark Leno's 13th District, suggesting that Leno's Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act (AB1967) that he introduced on February 12 might

not be such a great idea among Democratic members of the California Assembly. Yee: "This is not an easy issue for some of the caucus members, and they've expressed that to the speaker," Yee said, adding, "Right now, we don't need a wedge issue to divide the caucus." Oh, really, Mr. Yee? Since when are love, commitment, and domesticity a "wedge issue"? I could probably find some 4,000-plus couples who recently visited San Francisco's City Hall who think you're all wet on this, Mr. Yee.

Okay, so maybe I'm a bit biased (the lady's a friend of mine) but damn near anyone you speak to at the Hall of Justice these days says that newly elected District Attorney Kamala Harris has brought an entire new meaning to that office. I'm told even defense attorneys admire her for what she has so quickly done to that office and that's really

something to note.

Another bright, young public servant? That's got to be City Attorney Dennis Herrera; they don't come any better.

I don't know about my readers, but I set my alarm to hear national security adviser Condoleezza Rice give her three-hour monologue to the special September 11 commission hearing last week. Me? I can't stand the woman. Sure, she had a job to do, but up against the testimony of George W. Bush's former chief counterterrorism expert Richard Clarke, she was no match. He looked and sounded as though he was telling the truth. Rice, on the other hand, had her Republican script right and ready.

The Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupo Indians of San Diego County have hired former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown as a lobbyist to help bring an Indian casino to the desert town of Barstow, California. Bar-West, a Detroit-based developer allied with the Indian groups, said the former mayor and Assembly speaker "can open important doors in Sacramento," and no doubt he can.

A lot of San Francisco Superior Court Judge Lillian Sing's supporters and friends (and she's got plenty of them) are waiting for her to decide what office she'll seek this year.

Assessor Mabel Teng, D.A. Kamala Harris, BOE Chair Carole Migden, Anne Herrera, and Denise McCarthy are co-hosting a reception and fundraiser to help re-elect Supervisor Aaron Peskin Thursday, April 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Russian Hill home of Matthew Rothschild (\$100; 415-931-4804 for info).

In Colorado, a state that Democrats think they have a real chance of picking up a U.S. Senate seat, another right-winger, Pete Coors, the scion of the anti-gay Coors Brewing Company, is running for the GOP nomination. Democratic state Attorney General Ken Salazar is also in the race. The Coors family likely will spend millions on the Bush-Coors GOP state ticket this November.

There are 34 U.S. Senate seats up for election this November; 19 are currently held by Democrats and

15 by Republicans, but Democrats, with John Kerry at the head of the ticket, aided by President Bush's record, feel they have a chance to pick up the two seats needed to gain control of that body.

The United Nations General Assembly last week rejected a policy change that would have allowed same-sex partners of U.N. staffers to receive family benefits, and asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to review it. Representatives of dozens of Muslim and African nations, as well as, of course, the Vatican, led the revolt against Annan's recent directive to offer medical, pension, and other benefits for same-sex partners whose home governments have recognized their domestic partnerships.

The Sebastopol, California City Council last week approved a policy recognizing same-sex unions and giving benefits to same-sex spouses of municipal employees. Some work still must be done to make benefits equal between married heterosexual workers and married same-sex workers, city officials, said, but Mayor Linda Kelly commented that she "is glad we'll be able to treat all of our married employees the same."

A reader writes asking what the hell state Senator John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara) was thinking of when he proposed letting 14-year-olds vote, and I have to admit, I haven't a clue, but it was a lousy idea.

Lawsuit: The American Civil Liberties Union sued the state of Washington last week on behalf of 11 same-sex couples to challenge laws that deny marriage rights to gays. The ACLU said the state Constitution doesn't allow discrimination based on gender. The Washington Legislature has resisted attempts to legalize same-sex marriage and civil unions. Washington is among 38 states with laws defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

The Georgia state Legislature recently voted to put a ban on same-sex marriage into the state Constitution, and the amendment will appear on that state's ballot this November. Mississippi voters will also decide on a similar constitutional amendment in November.

In New York City, 13 same-sex couples sued New York state last week for the right to obtain marriage licenses. Denying marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples "deprives us of due process and equal protection" under the New York Constitution, said Assemblyman Dan O'Donnell (D-Manhattan), the brother of comedian Rosie O'Donnell, and one of those who wish to get a license. New York has a domestic partner law that grants some rights to same-sex couples, but couples lack "more than 700" rights married couples enjoy, according to the complaint filed at the State Supreme Court by the New York City chapter of the ACLU.

Mayor Gavin Newsom will present actress Sharon Stone, a longtime gay rights supporter, with the first ever NCLR Spirit Award at the National Center for Lesbian Rights gala at Moscone Center West on Saturday, April 24.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com

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Gay marriage and homosexuality

by Dale Carpenter

Will gay marriage produce more homosexuals? For many who oppose gay marriage, the prospect that it will lead more people to homosexuality is a powerful (if often unstated) reason to oppose it. They need not fear: gay marriage is unlikely to have that effect, though it will probably make it seem as if there are more homosexuals. But even if gay marriage did have the effect of increasing the number of homosexuals in the population, that would not be reason by itself to oppose gay marriage.

Gay marriage likely will affect public attitudes about homosexuality. Gays will be seen in stable, committed, long-term relationships. Those relationships will enjoy as much respect as the law can provide because they will be accorded rights, privileges, and protections equal to heterosexual marriages. They will be called marriages, both in the law and in our culture. This will provide a language of ritual in which to speak about gay relationships that is familiar to straight Americans. Gay couples will no longer be "partners," but spouses or husbands or wives. Gay couples will have engagements, weddings, and honeymoons. These words will be used, for the first time, without winks and nods, without knowing exaggeration.

We can expect, therefore, that over time gay marriage will have the effect of softening opposition to homosexuality in general. It will help alleviate some of the stigma that attaches to homosexuality.

That is not the only, or even the primary, reason to support gay marriage. The better reasons to support it are to encourage long-term coupling among gay men and women, to reduce the individual and social miseries and costs often associated with being single, to protect existing gay couples from significant legal and social disadvantage, and to support gay families in which children are raised. But reducing the hatred of homosexuals will certainly be a welcome consequence of recognizing gay marriage.

For some, however, this positive byproduct of gay marriage carries a significant risk. Gay marriage, in this view, will be a subsidy for homosexuality. And everyone knows that when you subsidize something you get more of it. Similarly, stigma is now part of the cost of homosexuality. Reduce the cost of something and you get more demand for it. Presto, more homosexuals.

Everything we have learned about human sexual orientation in the past half-century confounds this seemingly logical conclusion. Human sexual orientation appears to be both unchosen and unchangeable. Whether it is biologically or genetically determined, or simply set at a very young age, sexual orientation does not respond to social influences designed to lead it in a different direction. Efforts to "treat" or to "convert" homosexuals have a long history of failure and no reliable evidence of success.

Further, we have no good evi-

dence for the existence of "wavers," people whose sexual orientation is on the line between homosexuality and heterosexuality and who may be led in one direction or the other by social and personal influences. Homosexuals are not created by seduction, recruitment, or propaganda.

As conservative legal scholar and federal judge Richard Posner has concluded, homosexuality appears "to be no more common

in tolerant than in repressive societies." For example, there is no evidence that the relative acceptance of homosexuality in the Netherlands and Belgium, both of which recognize gay marriage, has caused an increase in the number of homosexuals.

So gay marriage likely will not increase the number of homosexuals; it will, however, increase levels of happiness among existing homosexuals. How could that be a bad thing?

By helping to reduce the stigma of homosexuality, gay marriage will also increase the proportion of homosexuals who are open and honest about their sexual orientation. That's because the potential costs of being out — like losing a job, alienating family members and friends, and risking hate violence — will be reduced. So after gay marriage is recognized, it may well seem there are more homosexuals than before.

Perhaps, however, even if gay marriage does not increase the number of homosexuals it will increase the amount of homosexual sexual activity. Again, this would

count as a significant cost of gay marriage to many who oppose it.

Would gay marriage lead to an increase in homosexual sexual activity? It is hard to say. On the one hand, we may conjecture that the stigma-reducing effect of gay marriage may lead to more homosexual experimentation, and at a younger age, by homosexuals and even by heterosexuals.

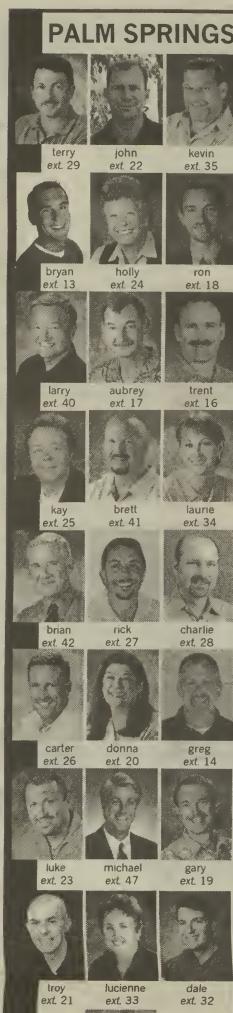
On the other hand, gay marriage may reduce homosexual activity in other ways. As I have argued, gay marriage would not be a subsidy for homosexuality in general because sexual orientation is immune to a system of rewards and punishments. But gay marriage will be a subsidy for homosexual monogamy.

So the overall effect of gay marriage may be neither a net gain nor a net loss in homosexual activity.

All of this discussion is predicated on the assumption that there is something bad about homosexuality; otherwise, there would be nothing to fear from an increase in the number of homosexuals or homosexual activity.

And the judgment that homosexuality is somehow bad rests, in turn, on essentially religious grounds. Try as they might to resist this characterization of their position, religion is what opponents of gay marriage must ultimately rest their case upon. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indiegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



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◀ page 2

ternoon, when most visitors were content to mingle and relax in the generally cooperative weather.

Sainthood honors were bestowed after 1 p.m.; those who have sacrificed and worked hard for the community were permanently written in to the Sisters' book of do-gooders. Honorees this year included celebrities such

as comedian Margaret Cho, whose gay rights and marriage equality efforts are a theme of her performances and web site projects; and Rosie O'Donnell, who since coming out as a lesbian has fought homophobia and most recently traveled to San Francisco to make a statement by marrying her long-time partner, Kelli. Local people honored included Mayor Gavin Newsom, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, and Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng for their efforts in the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Also honored were former Assemblywoman and Board of Equalization Chair Carole Migden, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, and Assemblyman Mark Leno, all

of whom were at the event to accept their inductions and to rally the crowd.

"The Sisters do not mock Catholicism," Leno told those in attendance, after recalling the controversy of five years ago when the Catholic Church deemed the Sisters' Easter party offensive. "They mock hypocrisy."

The Sisters then took over the stage to introduce the annual competitions but not before mocking some of the more prevalent anti-gay marriage rhetoric in the world.

"Next you'll have toasters getting married," said one sister. "And then appliances will be mixing."

The biggest crowd pleaser of the annual Easter bonnet contest

was the contestant who wore a bowl of chocolate fondue in his hair and allowed the audience to dip pieces of fruit into the bowl on his head. The winner of the annual "Hunky Jesus" contest was Jeremy Sheets, a circus performer, who entered as "Jesus Christ Circus Star." He was crowned Hunky Jesus XXV. Both the bonnet and the Hunky Jesus competitions drew about 20 contestants each.

Sunday marked the first of what will be 25 weeks of subsequent events to celebrate the spirit of the Sisters and their mission "to promulgate universal joy and expiate stigmatic guilt." For more information, visit www.the-sisters.org. ▼

Gump's

◀ page 3

married couples, Pogran said it was the right thing to do.

"We've reached out to the gay community in a variety of ways," he said. "But it's important to congratulate people." The store would also appreciate the business if the couples choose to open a gift registry, he added.

Mailliard Rende agreed.

"It's a wonderful way to approach a community that's so significant," Mailliard Rende said. "The response has been such a positive response. I'd love to have my phone ringing off the hook, but we've gotten three registries out of the letter. It's a start."

Gump's typically has about 550 in-store wedding registries a year, Mailliard Rende added.

Mailliard Rende said the letter was mailed out to about half of the couples who got married. She

said her assistant went down to City Hall to copy names and addresses from the marriage licenses, which are public documents.

Gump's, which has approximately 120 employees, does not, however, offer domestic partner benefits to its gay and lesbian workers, though that's no fault of Pogran's. He explained that the store's parent company, New Jersey-based Hanover Direct Inc., has elected not to offer the benefits. Pogran has had discussions with Hanover officials, but "the parent company has not been in agreement" on domestic partner benefits, he said.

"It's something I think is important to do," Pogran added.

Charlotte Chappel, vice president of benefits and insurance for Hanover Direct, told the B.A.R. Wednesday that the firm has had discussions over domestic partner benefits for at least the last couple of years. She added that discussions have included providing the

benefits not just for domestic partners of same-sex employees, but also for opposite-sex workers who may be in domestic partnerships.

"It's not something that's been at the top of our list," Chappel said, though she added that Hanover Direct plans to "reactivate research" on such benefits.

"We certainly are prepared to reevaluate that," she said of the issue.

"Absolutely," she said when asked if such a research would begin soon.

"It certainly is very important to Gump's. I know that," Chappel added.

Hanover Direct also owns International Male, a popular men's clothing company; the Domestications catalog company; and Under Gear, a men's active wear company, among other firms. Chappel said that benefits would be looked at on a company-by-company basis. ▼

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Treasure trail

by Jane Warner

Muddy Waters coffee house, 260 Church Street, April 8, 5:30 a.m.: When an employee arrived for work in the morning, she had a hard time opening the front door. Peeking through the window, she saw that a stack of chairs had been placed against the inside of the door. After pushing the door open, she discovered the shop in disarray: a desk was moved about 10 feet, a computer was overturned, the cash register had pry marks on it, and the locked bathroom door had been crowbarred. Additionally, the closet where the safe was kept was forced open, and the safe – containing about \$5,000 – was missing. A sliding glass window in the back of the coffee shop was believed to be the suspect's point of entry and exit. The owner of the shop told police his cafe on Valencia Street had been burglarized the day before. There are no known suspects.

It's on me

Sparky's Restaurant, 242 Church Street, April 9, 2:50 a.m.: While standing in front of the restaurant, a man was suddenly approached by a stranger who told him, "I need water." The man told the stranger he didn't have any water, and that he should try the restaurant.

Agitated, the stranger grabbed the man by the arm and insisted he come into the restaurant and "have a drink with me." When the man refused, the suspect pushed the victim through the front doors of the diner and toward the counter. Still hanging onto the man's arm, the assailant reached across the counter and poured a cup of coffee. "Drink it!" he demanded.

When the man refused, the suspect threw the hot coffee on the man's face and ran out of the



restaurant. Employees called 911 and officers arrived just in time to see the suspect getting into a cab. As the officers pulled over the taxi, the suspect jumped from the car, ignored officers' commands to stop, and ran against traffic through the intersection of Church and Market. The officers chased the fleeing suspect, catching up to him in the Safeway parking lot, where they tackled him to the ground.

A violent struggle ensued as the suspect kicked and tried to head butt one of the officers, and grabbed hold of the butt of an officer's gun. Although he was unable to get the gun from the holster, he pulled it with such force that the grip was stripped from the butt of the gun.

Both officers were able to gain control of the suspect as they waited for backup. The screaming suspect, 25, was placed into the back of a police wagon where he banged his head against the wall, causing injury to his forehead. The suspect was taken to San Francisco General Hospital and treated for his injuries, then transported to county jail where he was booked for assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping, resisting arrest, and a "no bail" warrant for robbery.

Go fetch

Church at Hancock, April 11, 1:18 a.m.: Five to six teenagers suddenly surrounded a man who was walking southbound on Church Street. The teens demanded to know where he was from and then told him to give them all of his money. The man pleaded with the hoodlums, telling them, "Come on, guys." But the suspects began to hit the man, causing him to fall to the ground where they continued to punch and kick him. The victim was able to fend off the attack long enough to throw his wallet, and the suspects picked it up and ran toward 18th Street. A

witness who saw the assault called 911. Responding police searched the area for the suspects – described only as African American, 14-17 years old, wearing dark puffy jackets – but could not find them. The victim, who lost \$50 and an identification card during the assault, was taken by ambulance to SF General Hospital where he received sutures to his upper lip.

Hear no evil

US Bank, 443 Castro Street, 9:40 a.m.: A man waited for a teller. When it was his turn, he walked up to the window and handed over a note written on the back of an envelope. "Give me all your money in your drawer," the note read. After reading the note, the teller told the suspect, "We just opened, I don't have enough money in my till yet." The suspect responded, "I have a gun."

Ignoring the man's threats, the teller explained he had to retrieve something from the copy machine, and he quickly walked away from the window. The robber – described as a white male, in his 50s, 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 160 pounds, with curly light brown short hair, wearing a dark green T-shirt and blue jeans – left the bank in an unknown direction without any money. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

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Coinfection rate high among SF homeless

by Liz Highleyman

Nearly three-quarters of homeless and marginally housed people with HIV in the city are coinfected with hepatitis C, but few are receiving treatment, according to new research from the University of California at San Francisco.

HIV and the hepatitis C virus (HCV) are spread in some similar ways, notably through sharing contaminated needles and works for injecting drugs. While hepatitis C is not commonly spread through sexual activity, it is more easily transmitted through direct contact with blood. Nationwide, it is estimated that about 4 million people have hepatitis C, while just under 1 million have HIV.

Research has shown that HIV makes hepatitis C progress more rapidly. Over time, HCV can lead to liver cirrhosis, cancer, and liver failure requiring a transplant. Hepatitis C does not seem to make HIV disease worse, but it can complicate HIV treatment because people with liver damage

have more trouble tolerating anti-retroviral drugs.

The UCSF study – one of the first to reveal the widespread extent of HIV/HCV coinfection in a poor urban population – included nearly 250 HIV-positive people recruited from homeless shelters, free meal programs, and single-room occupancy hotels. More than 80 percent were men and about 40 percent were African-Americans (a group that appears to respond less well to HCV therapy). About two-thirds had used injection drugs in the past, about 20 percent within the previous month.

Initial blood tests showed that 69 percent had evidence of HCV infection; after nearly three years of follow-up, this number had risen to 73 percent. In addition, some participants had evidence of HCV genetic material in their blood even though they did not test positive for HCV antibodies, which can happen when a person's immune system is suppressed. The researchers estimated that the rate of new HCV infections was

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Protection for gay federal workers set

by Bob Roeher

The U.S. Office of the Special Counsel will not be rolling back employment protections for gay and lesbian federal employees. That became clear in a statement OSC released Thursday, April 8 that brought an end to two months of growing discontent.

The obscure office has the responsibility of protecting 1.7 million federal employees from discrimination and retaliation in the workplace. The Senate had confirmed Scott J. Bloch to a five-year term that began on January 5, 2004 after the social conservative had testified that he would protect the rights of gay federal employees.

But on February 12, Federal GLOBE, the umbrella group of

GLBT federal employees, charged that OSC had "removed references to sexual orientation from its basic brochure, its complaint form, a two-page flyer entitled 'Your Rights as a Federal Employee,' and a set of training slides." It called the actions "political pandering to the conservative right" that send "a chilling message" to gay federal employees.

Bloch responded to press inquiries by saying that he was reviewing the non-discrimination policy. He said he believed his predecessors might have overstepped their authority. He told the *Federal Times* that action such as attending a gay Pride event would be protected, but sexual orientation might not be.

That drew letters of concern from gay and lesbian groups and from key members of both houses of Congress. On March 31, Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) led a news conference at the Capitol that included Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), George Miller (D-California), Eliot Engel (D-New York), and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) urging Bloch to reverse his actions.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) also said that the White House has responsibility to enforce non-discrimination laws.

"The actions of Special Counsel Scott Bloch are not only needlessly divisive, they are simply wrong as a matter of law," Pelosi said in a March 31 statement.

The White House weighed in almost immediately saying that government policy "prohibits discrimination against federal employees based on sexual orientation." President Bush "expects federal agencies to enforce this policy," the White House said.

But all of the parties were in a bit of a bind because Bloch's position was created to be insulated from political pressure. He can only be removed for cause through a process similar to impeaching a judge.

The impasse was resolved on April 8 when OSC released a statement on review of the statutory basis of its authority with regard to sexual orientation. Bloch said, "It is the policy of this administration that discrimination in the federal workforce on the basis of sexual orientation is prohibited."

"OSC has concluded that such

authority exists in cases other than actual conduct when reasonable grounds exist to infer that those engaging in discriminatory acts on the basis of sexual orientation have discriminated on the basis of imputed private conduct."

"We believe this will return the OSC's policies and procedures back to where they were before the review started," said Leonard Hirsch, president of Federal GLOBE. The group thanked "the president and the special counsel for their strong reiteration of the policy."

Hirsch said it was "the first time the Bush administration has clearly stated the policy. He vowed to work closely with administration officials "to make the words reality."

"We are pleased that Mr. Bloch

has reaffirmed the long-standing policy that provides protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation in federal employment matters," Representatives Frank, Miller, and Baldwin said in a statement released on April 9.

"It is vitally important that all federal employees be judged solely on their ability to perform their assigned jobs, and sexual orientation discrimination clearly has no place in such a system," the lawmakers added. They urged Bloch to restore the statements that had been removed to the Web site and other documents.

Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques called it "an encouraging sign ... No employer should be given a pass on discrimination." ▶

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17 **NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION CLASS**
Saturday, April 17, 11:30am @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market St

18 **IN OUR PRIME: SUNDAY SOCIAL** Sunday, April 18, 4pm @ the Garden, 100 Diamond St @ 18th St. Join the men of In Our Prime and Midlife Gay Men for our monthly gathering. Our guided group discussion will cover issues related to our health and well being. Come and mix, mingle and make new friends. Refreshments provided.

21 **OUR FAB 40's: WELCOME TO MIDLIFE**
Wednesday, April 21, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market St. Part I in a two-part series. Ah, our Forties. If midlife is our true adulthood, are we making the most of it? What makes a gay man age well? Aging presents its own special issues and challenges. Come share what's helped you thrive in midlife. Part II on Wednesday, April 28.

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Local Asian and Native American groups receive CDC funds

by Matthew S. Bajko

After taking a hit in its Ryan White CARE Act funding, the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center learned last week it would receive several federal grants meant to enhance HIV prevention in communities of color.

Under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advancing HIV Prevention initiative, the API Wellness Center will receive two grants – one in the range of \$600,000 to \$775,000 – for it to provide national capacity building services to organizations serving Asian and Pacific Islander communities and a second in the range of \$365,000 to \$400,000 to help organizations strengthen community access to and utilization of HIV prevention services.

The Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, also based in San Francisco, will receive two grants, one in the range of \$600,000 to \$1.7 million and a second in the amount of \$300,000, to improve HIV prevention within the API community. A third Bay Area group, the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center in Oakland, will receive a grant in the \$600,000 to \$1.7 million range and a second in the \$600,000 to \$750,000 range for HIV prevention work focused on the American Native/Alaska Native communities.

The CDC did not disclose specific amounts for the grants when it released the list on April 7. In announcing the awards, totaling \$21 million to be shared by 27 different national and regional organizations, federal health officials noted the money is \$760,000 more than was allocated in 2003.

"Minority communities are disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Partnerships with these communities are critical if we are to get testing and treatment to the people at risk and ultimately reduce the number of

new infections," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson in a statement.

Noticeably absent from the nationwide list of groups receiving CDC funds is any Bay Area organizations focused on the African American population or Latino community. The Black AIDS Institute in Los Angeles did receive a grant to work with other organizations working with at-risk African American communities, as well as the Council of Community Clinics in San Diego, which serves the Hispanic and Latino communities.

Notice of the grants comes nearly a month after local health officials and AIDS service agencies learned San Francisco would lose \$4 million in CARE funding this year. Hardest hit by the cuts in funding will be agencies working with communities of color.

Due to the loss in revenue, about 12 percent of San Francisco's total award from the previous year, the health department is defunding whole categories of service, including integrated case management. Executive directors of several minority-focused agencies have noted that people of color make up 47 percent of clients receiving Ryan White funded services.

According to the API Wellness Center, the proposed cuts will reduce its current capacity by more than 50 percent, resulting in loss of services to 90 severe-need, linguistically isolated API immigrants and refugees living with HIV/AIDS. The center's HIV Care Services, whose staff is fluent in 10 languages, is the only API case management program in Northern California. It stands to lose \$191,000.

"Aside from just being the only API case management program in Northern California, we create and augment cultural competence capacity in the private and public health care systems: at Positive

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Gay prisoner may be freed this weekend

by Ed Walsh

A gay prisoner connected with one of California's most high profile parole cases could be freed as early as this weekend, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Kevin Leigh was convicted of second-degree murder for killing Rick Diamonon, a reputed drug

dealer, in Los Angeles County in 1985. Now, the only thing standing between Leigh and freedom is Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's pen.

Leigh was ordered freed by the parole board last November. The governor has until Saturday, April 17, to block the parole. If Schwarzenegger does nothing, Leigh will be freed by default.

In a telephone interview this

week from the state prison where he is being held in Soledad, Leigh told the *B.A.R.* that he hadn't expected the parole board to order his release. Leigh said that he got a sense that the parole board was leaning to his side when they lauded him for his good prison record and his lack of any prior criminal history. Leigh was 21 when he killed Diamonon.

In an interview with the *B.A.R.*

last summer, Leigh said that he killed Diamonon as a result of a confrontation he and a friend, Mark Smith, then 29, had with the victim. Leigh said that he, under the direction of Smith, planned to "teach a lesson" to Diamonon for allegedly diluting cocaine with "biker's speed."

Smith and Leigh were each convicted of second-degree murder. Smith was freed last September after a long battle with the state for parole. He became the first prisoner to be released despite an

order from then-Governor Gray Davis blocking parole. Smith suffers from AIDS, cancer, heart disease, and Parkinson's disease.

So far, Schwarzenegger has a more liberal stance on parole than his predecessor. In the five years he was in office, Davis only allowed for the release of eight of the 294 prisoners whose release was approved by the parole board. Since taking office last November, Schwarzenegger has allowed for the release of 23 out of the 72 cases that he's reviewed. ▼

Araujo trial

◀ page 1

eventually engaging in sexual relations with at least two of the men and earning the ire of at least one woman, Nicole Brown, the girlfriend of Merel's brother Paul.

The men, said Lamiero, had begun to speculate about Araujo's gender on and off since September, when Merel and Magidson acknowledged they had engaged in sexual relations with her. In both instances she reportedly asked for anal sex because she was menstruating. The instances, however, took place two weeks apart.

Lamiero said that in several separate conversations, the men—with varying amounts of both concern and simple curiosity—speculated about Araujo's build, her voice, her sexual activities, and her strength. They eventually agreed that a "woman who was really a man"—if she met "a really bad dude"—would most certainly be murdered. In order to fulfill their own roles in this story, said Lamiero, the men would later become the "cast of characters" they had created; with Magidson needing to be seen as that "really bad dude" and Merel needing to quell what he saw as "an insult to his fragile sense of masculinity."

"They arrived at their decisions before the discovery," said Lamiero. "Only one condition had to be met for that to materialize."

That condition—the presence of Araujo's male genitals—would be met one night in October. Araujo's gender certainly was not the driving force in the lives of these young men, who continued to party with alcohol and marijuana with a somewhat regular crowd almost nightly at Merel's house.

But on the night of October 3, the men had been out at a restaurant before returning to Merel's home. It was mentioned on their way home that Lida might be there. It was agreed, said Lamiero, that they would have answers that night.

According to Lamiero, Araujo had in fact been at the home since about 8 p.m., going out briefly on a beer run with Brown while the men were still out. Knowing that "problems were developing," Merel's brother Paul decided to take Araujo home before the men arrived. Tragically, they were heading out the door when Merel's pickup truck pulled into the driveway.

After a cordial greeting and some group drinking, Merel began interrogating Araujo, said Lamiero. About an hour's worth of shouting resulted in Brown confronting Araujo in the bathroom, and sticking her hand up her skirt to feel her genitals.

"Eddie Araujo was killed because when Nicole Brown reached under her skirt she felt the genitals of a man," said Lamiero—who also emphasized that his pronouns and references to Araujo may shift depending on the situation and witnesses, and that Araujo's belief that she was a woman was not on trial.



From left, defendants Jose Merel, Michael Magidson, and Jason Cazares in court Wednesday.

"If [Brown] had felt the genitals of a female, Lida would be Lida, and Lida would be alive."

Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen's mother, was joined in court by dozens of extended family members and supporters, including former and current partners, relatives and their children, best friends who had driven up from San Diego, and local anti-violence and LGBT advocates.

Guerrero sat with her eyes closed for much of the opening arguments, and appeared outside only briefly during a lunch recess, with her attorney Gloria Allred. Allred spoke for the entire family, affirming Gwen's gender identity as female, Guerrero's love for her daughter, and the confidence that justice will prevail. She also fended off media requests for a quote from Guerrero, stating, "This is such a hard day for her."

Mixed in among Araujo's grieving family members were the families of the defendants, who were let into the courtroom separately but due to the intimate size of the room wound up next to or close to Araujo supporters. The Merel, Magidson, and Cazares families remained silent, with an occasional nod to their sons during breaks. There were no public exchanges between the families, and a sign posted outside by Sheppard prohibited attendees from demonstrating, holding signs, or wearing T-shirts in relation to the case.

At press time, opening arguments were still continuing, and the first witnesses were not expected to be called to the stand until Thursday, April 15.

The prosecution's strongest witness is Jaron Nabors, who allegedly took part in the killing but accepted a plea-bargain of voluntary manslaughter with an 11-year prison sentence in exchange for testimony against his friends.

On Wednesday, Lamiero emphasized that Nabors's statements were not bought, and in fact, were not even known until after the plea-bargain had been arranged.

"It was a leap of faith, and all he had to do was tell the truth," said Lamiero of Nabors's testimony during the preliminary hearing, the first time, said Lamiero, that Nabors had made statements to the district attorney's office. Even if his statements had exonerated the defendants, said Lamiero, Nabors still

would have received his deal. There was nothing motivating him, in other words, to indict his friends.

Testimony from Nabors and others, said Lamiero, will show how "this cast of characters ... would snuff out [Araujo's] life, stick him in a hole in the forest, and then go out to McDonald's for breakfast."

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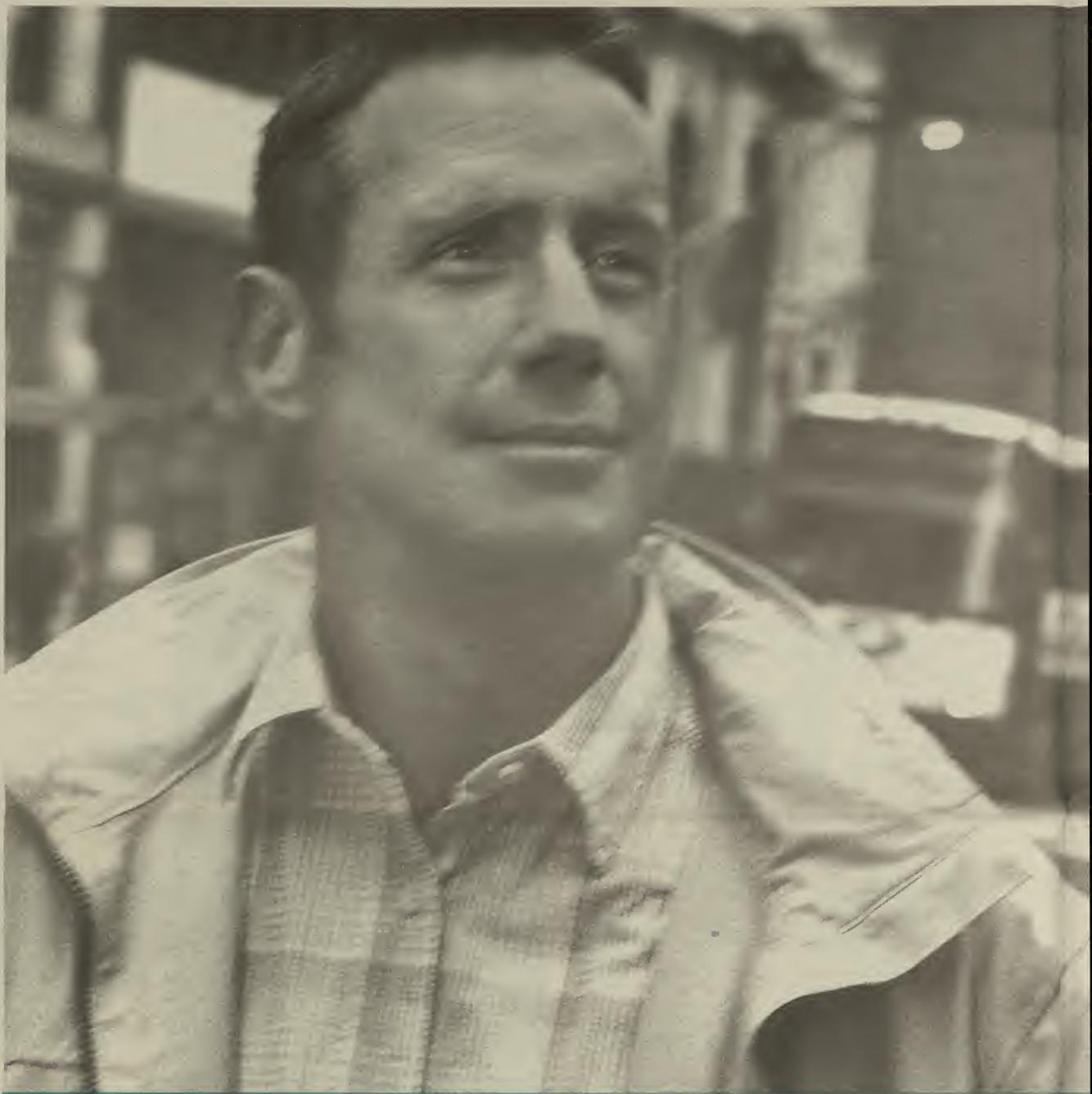
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- The PI-experienced patient study was not large enough to reach a definitive conclusion that LEXIVA/ritonavir and lopinavir/r are clinically equivalent.
- Once-daily administration of LEXIVA/r is not recommended for PI-experienced patients.

Important Safety Information

- You should not take LEXIVA if you have had an allergic reaction to LEXIVA or AGENERASE® (amprenavir).
- High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening of diabetes, and bleeding in hemophiliacs have occurred in some patients taking protease inhibitors.
- Changes in body fat may occur in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. The cause and long

term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Skin rashes can occur in patients taking LEXIVA. Rarely, rashes were severe or life-threatening.
- Opportunistic infections can develop when the immune system is weak. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while you are taking LEXIVA to discuss any side effects or concerns.
- Missing doses of your HIV medication may give the virus a chance to mutate and multiply—your medicines may not work as well and your virus may become cross-resistant to other HIV medicines.
- Most common side effects in clinical studies were diarrhea, headache, nausea, rash, and vomiting. In most cases, these side effects did not cause people to stop taking their medicine.

Drug Interactions

- LEXIVA should not be taken with: AGENERASE (amprenavir), Halcion® (triazolam), ergot medications (Cafergot®, Migranal® and others), Propulsid®

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- Serious and/or life-threatening events could occur between LEXIVA and other medications, including Cordarone® (amiodarone), lidocaine (intravenous only), Elavil® and Tofranil® (tricyclic antidepressants), Quinaglute® (quinidine).
- Women who use birth control pills should choose a different kind of contraception. LEXIVA can affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills.
- Patients taking Viagra® or LEVITRA™ with LEXIVA may be at an increased risk of side effects.
- This list of drug interactions is not complete. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or plan to take, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbals.

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Patient Information about LEXIVA Tablets (lex-EE-vah)
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Read the Patient Information that comes with LEXIVA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. It is important to remain under a healthcare provider's care while taking LEXIVA. Do not change or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about LEXIVA.

What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA?

LEXIVA can cause dangerous and life-threatening interactions if taken with certain other medicines. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

- Some medicines cannot be taken at all with LEXIVA.
- Some medicines will require dose changes if taken with LEXIVA.
- Some medicines will require close monitoring if you take them with LEXIVA.

Know all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. Keep a list of the medicines you take. Show this list to all your healthcare providers and pharmacists anytime you get a new medicine or refill. Your healthcare providers and pharmacists must know all the medicines you take. They will tell you if you can take other medicines with LEXIVA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking LEXIVA without talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with LEXIVA.

What is LEXIVA?

LEXIVA is a medicine you take by mouth to treat HIV infection. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome.) LEXIVA belongs to a class of anti-HIV medicines called protease inhibitors. LEXIVA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. When used in combination therapy, LEXIVA may help lower the amount of HIV found in your blood, raise CD4+ (T) cell counts, and keep your immune system as healthy as possible, so it can help fight infection. However, LEXIVA does not work in all patients with HIV.

LEXIVA does not:

- cure HIV infection or AIDS. We do not know if LEXIVA will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems (opportunistic infections) that people get with HIV or AIDS. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while you are taking LEXIVA. The long-term effects of LEXIVA are not known.
- lower the risk of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

LEXIVA has not been fully studied in children under the age of 18 or in adults over the age of 65.

Who should not take LEXIVA?**Do not take LEXIVA Tablets if you:**

- are taking certain other medicines. Read the section "What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA?" Do not take the following medicines with LEXIVA. You could develop serious or life-threatening problems.
 - HALCION® (triazolam; used for insomnia)
 - Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRAL® D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches)
 - PROPULSID® (cisapride); used for certain stomach problems
 - VERSED® (midazolam); used for sedation
 - ORAP® (pimozide); used for Tourette's disorder
- Do not take the following medicines if you are taking LEXIVA and NORVIR® (ritonavir) together. You could develop serious or life-threatening problems.
 - TAMBOCOR® (flecainide); used for certain abnormal heart rhythms
 - RHYTHMOL® (propafenone); used for certain abnormal heart rhythms
- are allergic to LEXIVA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is fosamprenavir calcium. See the end of this leaflet for a list of all the ingredients in LEXIVA.
- are allergic to AGENERASE® (amprenavir).

You should not take AGENERASE (amprenavir) and LEXIVA at the same time.

Before taking LEXIVA, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions including if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if LEXIVA can harm your unborn baby. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if LEXIVA is right for you. If you use LEXIVA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breastfeeding. You should not breastfeed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby through your milk. Also, it is not known if LEXIVA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- have liver problems. You may be given a lower dose of LEXIVA or LEXIVA may not be right for you.
- have kidney problems
- have diabetes. You may need dose changes in your insulin or other diabetes medicines.
- have hemophilia
- are allergic to sulfa medicines

Before taking LEXIVA, tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. LEXIVA can cause dangerous and life-threatening interactions if taken with certain other medicines. You may need dose changes in some of your medicines or closer monitoring with some medicines if you also take LEXIVA (see "What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA?"). Know all the medicines that you take and keep a list of them with you to show healthcare providers and pharmacists.

Women who use birth control pills should choose a different kind of contraception. LEXIVA can affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

How should I take LEXIVA?

- Take LEXIVA Tablets exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed.
- Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of LEXIVA Tablets at any one time. Do not change your dose or stop taking LEXIVA without talking with your healthcare provider.
- You can take LEXIVA Tablets with or without food.
- When your supply of LEXIVA or other anti-HIV medicine starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. The amount of HIV virus in your blood may increase if one or more of the medicines are stopped, even for a short time.
- Stay under the care of a healthcare provider while using LEXIVA.
- It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of LEXIVA by more than 4 hours, wait and take the next dose at the regular time. However, if you miss a dose by fewer than 4 hours, take your missed dose right away. Then take your next dose at the regular time.
- If you take too much LEXIVA, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

What should I avoid while taking LEXIVA?

- Do not use certain medicines while you are taking LEXIVA. See "What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA" and "Who should not take LEXIVA?"
- Do not breastfeed. See "Before taking LEXIVA, tell your healthcare provider." Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection since LEXIVA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom, to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of LEXIVA?

LEXIVA may cause the following side effects:

- skin rash. Skin rashes, some with itching have happened in patients taking LEXIVA. Tell your healthcare provider if you get a rash after starting LEXIVA.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia). Some patients had diabetes before taking LEXIVA while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others may need a new diabetes medicine.
- increased bleeding problems in some patients with hemophilia.
- worse liver disease. Patients with liver problems, including hepatitis B or C, are more likely to get worse liver disease when they take anti-HIV medicines like LEXIVA.
- changes in blood tests. Some people have changes in blood tests while taking LEXIVA. These include increases seen in liver function tests and blood fat levels, and decreases in white blood cells. Your healthcare provider may do regular blood tests to see if LEXIVA is affecting your body.
- changes in body fat. These changes have happened in patients taking antiretroviral medicines like LEXIVA. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Common side effects of LEXIVA are nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider about any side effects that bother you or that won't go away.

This list of side effects of LEXIVA is not complete. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

How should I store LEXIVA Tablets?

- Store LEXIVA Tablets at room temperature between 59° and 86°F (15° to 30°C). Keep the container tightly closed.
- Keep LEXIVA and all medicines out of the reach of children.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General information about LEXIVA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use LEXIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give LEXIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about LEXIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about LEXIVA that is written for health professionals. For more information you can call toll-free 888-825-5249 or visit www.LEXIVA.com.

What are the ingredients in LEXIVA?**Active Ingredient:** fosamprenavir calcium.

Inactive Ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and povidone K30. The tablet film-coating contains the inactive ingredients hypromellose, iron oxide red, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

LEXIVA Tablets, 700 mg, are pink in color and are capsule-shaped, with the letters "GX LL7" printed on one side of the tablet.

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Signs opposing "no low flow" appear in the storefronts of many Guerneville businesses.

Rolling on the river, part 3 'No low flow' is hot political issue

by Ed Walsh

No low flow.

It's a slogan you'll see on signs in storefront windows in downtown Guerneville and everywhere along the Russian River. It refers to the region's hottest political issue: whether to reduce the summertime water flow on the Russian River by as much as 75 percent to protect three species of endangered fish.

The federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration claims that the reduced flow is necessary to provide a hospitable environment for juvenile coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The agency says that the newly hatched fish cannot survive in swift river flows and are swept into the ocean before they have time to mature.

Business interests argue that reducing the river flow would be an environmental and economic disaster. The low-flow opponents say less water in the Russian River would increase pollution levels and reduce the flow of vacationers to the region's tourist-based economy.

"The plan would be disastrous to the area and it will kill more fish than it will save," said Steve Fogle, the executive director of the Russian River Chamber of Commerce.

Fogle cited a low-flow plan that was implemented on the Klamath River on the Oregon-California border in 2002. The reduced water flow resulted in the death of an estimated 33,000 chinook salmon.

When asked about the Klamath disaster, NOAA fisheries biologist Dick Butler told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "That's a completely different situation. It's nothing like what we are proposing on the Russian River."

But when pressed, Butler said he wasn't that familiar with the low flow issue on the Klamath. The NOAA official maintained that reducing the flow on the Russian River would help the endangered fish.

The senior environmental specialist with the Sonoma County Water Agency, Amy Harris, told the *B.A.R.* that the low-flow proposal has a number of bureaucratic hurdles to get through be-

fore it could be enacted. She estimated that implementation is at least 10 years away.

When asked about concerns that the low-flow plan would increase pollution levels and kill fish, Harris said that although pollution levels may increase in sections of the river, the problem is best addressed by cutting off the sources of pollution rather than increasing the river flow.

Fogle countered that even if the sources of pollution were cut off today, it could be 30-40 years before the river could be returned to its pristine state. He cited the problems of pesticides, leaking septic tanks, and gravel mining. The latter factor, the chamber official explained, has the most impact on the river's water quality. He said that before gravel mining, the riverbed was lined with 30 feet of rock, which helped cleanse the water. Fogle noted that gravel mining still continues on the river.

Harris told the *B.A.R.* she's convinced that a lower flow on the river would significantly increase the fish population. She said that although a lower flow may hurt canoe and kayak businesses, it could be an economic boon to sport fishing. A study commissioned by the Sonoma County Water Agency found that cutting the summer flow on the river would result in the loss of 18 jobs, mostly to canoe businesses, and the loss of \$800,000 in economic activity to the area.

Fogle estimated that the economic hit to the area would be 20 times worse than the water agency's estimate. He said that the chamber is commissioning its own study by an independent firm.

If the low-flow plan went into effect, how much slower will the river be and will it look any different? Harris said that currently the summertime flow in Guerneville is about 125 cubic feet per second. The proposal would reduce the minimum flow to 35 cfs. Harris said that although the current would be weaker, the river would be just as wide in the summertime except for just a few sections where it would be only a little less wide.

Flow to the Russian River is controlled primarily through releases from the Lake Mendocino reservoir. Low-flow supporters say

that lowering the summertime flow would return the river closer to its more natural state.

However, the issue is resolved, a long contentious battle is a sure bet. Both sides say they want a healthy and environmentally friendly river. Each side is also equally divided over the science behind the low-flow proposal. ▼



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Newsom prepares for budget battle

by Matthew S. Bajko

As Mayor Gavin Newsom weighs how to deal with a \$352 million deficit in the city's budget, his priority, he said, is to maintain services for the most needy while eliminating some positions.

"As we look at the whole budget in San Francisco we have to do more with less," said Newsom as he enters the most trying time in his first year in office. "We can reduce the size of our payroll by being creative and at the same time by paying people well."

During an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, April 13, a frustrated Newsom repeatedly criticized members of the Board of Supervisors for only hours before approving \$100,000 to increase staffing for the public defender's office.

"They shouldn't be adding new positions. We should be reducing it. San Francisco has grown its payroll to a degree we can't continue to afford," said Newsom, noting the city cannot afford to maintain a 27,500-person bureaucracy.

The mayor's comments are a clear indication that his honeymoon period with the board is quickly coming to an end. While his decision to allow same-sex couples to marry engendered him support not only from the public but from many board members who were vocal opponents during his mayoral campaign, the niceties may well soon give way under the pressure of dealing with the city's

financial mess.

By June Newsom must present a balanced budget to the supervisors, and he has already asked all department heads to cut 5.5 percent from their budgets. He has also asked department heads for contingency plans of how to cut another 15 percent from their budgets. Those reductions are sure to be vigorously debated by the public and questioned by the board.

To help offset the impacts on public services, Newsom has asked all city employees making more than \$125,000 to take 15 percent pay cuts, asked workers to turn in their city-paid cell phones and vehicles if they are unnecessary, and cut the budget for the mayor's office, including his own salary.

And he strongly disagrees with the board's vote Tuesday to increase the staffing at the public defender's office, which he noted already has increased from 99 to 127 people.

"Here's my problem: the board approves \$100,000 for a position in a department that just received 16 new positions in this year's budget," he said. "I have to find close to \$100,000 from where? AIDS services? Adolescent mental health? Supportive services for homeless? No more street sweeping on your block? You can't spend money you don't have."

Newsom added such expenditures would make it that much harder to find money for programs such as the new queer youth housing initiative that Supervisor Bevan Dufty started this

month. Dufty has said he's looking to find \$80,000 in the city's budget to fund the program.

While Mitch Katz, whom the mayor has asked to remain as the city's health director, has already given him a budget absorbing a 5.5 percent cut, Newsom said he has yet to see such a budget plan from Public Defender Jeff Adachi. Nor has Adachi agreed to take a pay cut, he added.

"That would help pay for this position," said Newsom. "Someone has to sacrifice to add a 17th position in a department that has grown last year in percentage of employees more than any other city department."

Newsom tempered his comments by saying the disagreement is nothing personal. "I like Jeff. He didn't support me last year. I am not one of these retaliatory people. I respect people even if they disagree. If they have a better idea, I am open for argument."

Pointing out that if all the elected officials and department heads offered to give back 15 percent of their salaries, generating \$9 million, Newsom said the funds could be used in part to offset the \$4 million cut in federal funds for AIDS.

"It would go a long way to deal with the Ryan White cuts wouldn't it?" said Newsom. "I am asking department heads to be part of the solution, not exacerbate the problem. We all need to practice what we preach."

His desire to put services over staffing is seen in Newsom's decision to recruit a volunteer to be

his AIDS czar instead of maintaining it as a paid position.

"This is the challenge in this budget. Do we want the resources for the position or want resources for services? That's why we are trying to be creative with this position. We want to have the position but use the money that would pay for it for direct services. That's a tradeoff," said Newsom.

Despite a call for resumes from community members to take on the role, Newsom said the response so far has been overwhelming. While he hopes to name an AIDS czar soon, he said he is willing to reexamine funding for the position.

"I could be persuaded if we are not successful in finding a volunteer. We can take an existing budgeted position in city government and transfer it in a way so we can provide that service," he said. "I will still maintain some consideration for that if we are not successful in a volunteer capacity."

Newsom countered criticisms that having the position remain unfilled led to the city's reduction in Ryan White funding, saying the city already had people like Sena-

tors Dianne Feinstein (D-California), Barbara Boxer (D-San Francisco), and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) advocating on its behalf in Washington.

"You've got an A-team out there that's as good as it gets. I don't think any position here could do better than the leader of the Democratic Party who has not been timid in her proactive resolve on this issue," he said, referring to Pelosi.

On requests for having a summit meeting to discuss AIDS issues and funding, Newsom said while he sees the merits of having such a forum, he does not want to waste needed funding to hold one.

"In the past we have spent more on holding summits than on any deliverables once the summit was completed. So I am not immune to summits but let's flesh things out and start working together," he said.

The AIDS czar would be charged with doing such work, though Newsom said he wants whoever is selected for the post to determine their own role.

next page ▶

Marriage bill

◀ page 1

partner bills AB25 and AB205, if same-sex couples would accept "second-class status" by ending their fight for equal marriage rights, according to the EQCA account.

The meeting took place just weeks after the senator's son, David Knight, flew to San Francisco from Baltimore to wed his longtime partner. Knight repeated his comments to a reporter for the *Sacramento News and Review* in an April 8 article titled "Wedding Present" by Jeff Kearns. In the story, Knight verifies his new position and indicates that he could do "nothing" to stop EQCA's Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act from being passed if Democrats in the Legislature supported it.

Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has indicated that he has no problem with same-sex marriage but has not taken a position on the bill. The governor did say during an appearance on the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno in early March that gay marriage would be "fine with me" if voters or the courts changed state law to permit the unions.

"The fact that Senator Knight, a man who has spent many years fighting to prevent families headed by lesbian and gay couples from obtaining any legal rights, has shifted his position, demonstrates his acknowledgment that most Californians do not support his extreme position," said Kors. "His move toward allowing rights and benefits for same-sex couples in exchange for accepting some form of second-class status for our relationships is a clear sign that he realizes that the march toward equality cannot be stopped."

Just last year, Knight lost a preliminary injunction he filed in a lawsuit to stop California's domestic partner law from going into effect and failed to garner sufficient signatures to put that measure on the ballot in an attempt to overturn it.

"The fact that the politician who has been the leader of the movement to deny same-sex couples legal recognition is now willing to accept domestic partnership

demonstrates that the entire debate has shifted and that we are heading in the right direction," Kors said.

On Tuesday, April 13 Knight placed himself on medical leave. Knight spokesman David Orosco said the senator will undergo medical-related testing, but would not comment further on Knight's medical condition, according to an account on the Web site 365gay.com.

The loss of one of the state's most vocal opponents of gay rights was the second setback for antigay groups this month. San Francisco Superior Court Judge James L. Warren denied the request of the anti-gay Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund to participate as a party in *Woo v. Lockyer*, the affirmative lawsuit challenging California's discriminatory marriage laws, brought by the National Center for Lesbian Rights on behalf of EQCA, Our Families Coalition, and six couples.

The lawsuit argues that denying same-sex couples the right to marry violates the California Constitution's guarantees of equality, liberty, and privacy. The judge found that the Proposition 22 fund had not shown any way in which its members would be harmed by a ruling that same-sex couples could marry in California.

"We are very pleased by the court's ruling," said Shannon Minter, the legal director for NCLR. "This case is about real families who are harmed by being denied the right to marry. The couples who brought this lawsuit are entitled to their day in court without undue interference by an outside group with no direct interest in the case. The court correctly found that merely having a political interest in an issue does not meet the legal standard for intervention." ▼

The tax day protests will take place today (Thursday, April 15), from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Oakland Main Post Office, 1675 7th Street right next to the West Oakland BART station and from 9 to 11:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Main Post Office, 1300 Evans Street off Third Street near Candlestick Park.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mayor Newsom

◀ page 1

again. Thank you, you made me proud to live in San Francisco. That's as good as it gets," said Newsom.

This Friday, April 16, Newsom marks his first 100 days in office, and the beginning of his tenure has been anything but quiet. Along with the political and cultural earthquake felt around the world from his sanctioning same-sex marriage, Newsom has shaken up City Hall in his picks for police and fire chief, naming the first women — Heather Fong and Joanne Hayes-White, respectively — to hold both posts. For his replacement on the Board of Supervisors, he picked Michela Alioto-Pier, believed to be the first supervisor who uses a wheelchair.

No regrets

But his defining moment as a politician will forever be February 12, when he ordered the county clerk to begin marrying gay and lesbian couples. And even if that means his political career moves no further than local office, or the state's highest court rules those marriages invalid, Newsom offers no apologies for his decision.

"No matter what happens in May or early June, no matter what happens to my political future, I will never regret this. We put a human face on discrimination," he said. "It's the most exhilarating and extraordinary month that I have ever experienced in my life, to see 4,000-plus couples' lives affirmed, to see their relationships validated. That something no judge can take away, no lawyer, no politician will ever take away that moment in time."

"I will never regret that experience. I will never regret that decision," added Newsom.

Yet approval for the mayor's decision is not unanimous. While he may receive a hero's welcome in the Castro, Newsom also must contend with vocal animosity in other locales. Whether it be the Giant's opening day at SBC Park or from parishioners at Sts Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in North Beach.

"It's not easy. I go to dinner, you know people, they freely express their point of view. A woman in a wheelchair at the game came up shaking she was so upset and said, 'Have you read the Bible?' I said 'Yes. Not cover to cover, which version? In Latin? New Testament or Old Testament?'" recalled Newsom. "An African American woman came up to me, I reminded her blacks couldn't marry whites in this country in 1967, the year of my birth. It hardly seems right. She said that's different. I don't know how it is."

Despite the April 3 protest against same-sex marriage in North Beach led by San Francisco Archbishop William J. Levada,



Mayor Gavin Newsom said he has no regrets about his decision to allow same-sex couples to marry.

Newsom, who is Catholic, said he has also received support from local Catholics.

"Anywhere you go there is not unanimous reaction, especially in my church. A number of leaders in my church have been supportive, many off the record for fear of reprisal and others on the record," said Newsom, adding he has come to terms on the teachings of his church he disagrees with, whether it be birth control, stem cell research, divorce, or same-sex marriage.

"But we are talking about civil marriages here. I am not telling the church what to do. I am telling them what I think they should do but I am not dictating the terms," said Newsom. "And I hope the church doesn't have to dictate the terms of my civic responsibility."

Newsom has not been refused communion by the archbishop, he said, but he acknowledged other priests have warned him they would refuse to give him communion at their churches.

"Which I think is wrong. I don't think it advances or helps the church," he said. But, he added, "The Catholic Church has impressed me. I would say the silent majority is with us. I would never have imagined that and that is really significant, the surprising number of people that come up and say it is the right thing."

It only bolsters his belief that the city will eventually prevail in court and be allowed to resume the same-sex marriages.

"No matter what the Supreme Court does the fight will continue. This will ultimately be won on the constitutional question, undoubtedly," said Newsom. "I am so proud we are so far along on the constitutional question and we are. We are in court, we've got dates on the constitutional question."

Budget battle

◀ previous page

He said he sees the AIDS czar as "a position of connecting all the dots, getting everybody on the same page, creating symmetry, streamlining," but he also would "humbly allow the person to fully define their role in a much broader, detailed context."

As he enters the next 100 days in office, Newsom said he knows the next few months will be trying. Half joking, he said he expects to feel "exhaustion, shortness of breath, physical deterioration, some would say mental deteriora-

tion" as he grapples with balancing the budget.

"You will see mistakes, see good decisions, and see bad decisions. You will see someone who is self-critical, someone who admits mistakes, and someone open to argument," he said.

But most of all, Newsom said he intends to be "someone fighting hard to protect the most vulnerable in San Francisco from major service cuts. Someone forced by nature of his position to make cuts nonetheless that are going to be difficult and are really painful. I will try to spread that pain to those who can afford it most." ▶

who created the foundation on which I could make a decision, which is frankly an easy decision."

For a true hero, Newsom instead points to fallen San Francisco Police Officer Isaac Espinoza, 29, shot down while on duty Saturday night in the city's Bayview District, as someone worthy of such a label.

"Often at times, everyone — we all call them heroes and overstate their legacies. In this case we are probably understating the contributions of Isaac Espinoza. Here is a guy that was involved in a chase, broke his leg, and came back to work," said Newsom. "I can give you stories where people break their wrists and don't come back to work for a year. This young man went out to Bayview Hunter's Point to go back to work."

Losing the officer "does weigh you down. That's the toughest part of this job," said Newsom. "The job is all about accountability and producing results. I feel accountable in a lot of respects and now we have to produce a result so this death is not a death that's in vain, that makes his death matter in the context of our resolve to produce the kind of community he was advancing in his everyday work." ▶

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Divorce: Lesbian attorney keeps it civil

by Eric Ganther

Who: Sandra Blair
What: Family law attorney
Where: 605 Market Street, SF
Contact: (415) 495-2040

They say half of all marriages end in divorce. If that's the case, then of the 4,000 or so same-sex couples married in San Francisco's "Winter of Love," then fully 2,000 will truly be "till death do us part." The other 2,000 couples will, statistically speaking, discover the meaning of "irreconcilable differences" — they'll be gay divorcees. This week I interview a divorce lawyer, Sandra Blair, about what it's like helping people understand and utilize their newly forming marriage and/or domestic partnership rights in this time of change.

If the California Supreme Court overturns San Francisco's gay and lesbian marriages, what rights will we lose?

From a family law perspective, marriage rights are the right to the property acquired with the time, energy, and skill of either person during the marriage. That's earnings, pensions, sweat equity, research that produces a patent, a painting that's created during the marriage, anything. There is a responsibility for debts, too.

There is also the right to ask for alimony (spousal support) after divorce. All these rights would begin now for those who get married now and in January 2005,

thanks to California Assembly Bill 205, for those who are registered domestic partners.

What's the difference then between state-registered domestic partners and marriage?

The short answer is that after January 1, 2005, there isn't any. California is giving everything to state-registered domestic partners that it can give to married couples.

People who marry now have to go through the legal system to get divorced. People who are state-registered domestic partners before January 1, 2005 just have to send a notice to the secretary of state. After January 1, 2005, domestic partners will go through the same divorce proceedings that married couples go through.

Why fight for marriage if we're going to get domestic partnership?

Registering as a domestic partner does not carry the same connotations as getting married. Marriage is something our parents had. Something we thought we'd never have. Marriage is more than just being a domestic partner. Even though as a lawyer I can tell you that beginning January 1, 2005, they will be virtually identical.

What do you recommend to people thinking about getting married?

I've read things that recommend people to terminate their

domestic partnership before they get married. But that would not be my advice. We know what your rights are as a domestic partner, but we don't know what your rights are as a same-sex married couple.

What's your take on the proposed federal constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage?

The proposal is an abrogation of states' rights. The Defense of Marriage Act was also an abrogation of states' rights. It's interesting that President Bush and his conservative henchpeople, who claim to be for states' rights, are proposing an amendment to constitutional law for something that has always been governed by the states.

Do you have many LGBT clients?

I have a significant number, but my practice has, over the years, been predominantly opposite-sex couples.

Is it more difficult for you to help a same-sex couple separate than an opposite-sex couple?

The law regarding same-sex couples has been much harder to deal with than for opposite-sex couples. First of all, any matters pertaining to children and child support (and there now are a significant number of same-sex couples with children) have to be



Sandra Blair

If there is real estate, then that aspect of the case will be tried separately. If there is real estate in more than one county, a trial would have to be held in each county. It's a legal nightmare. And the person who has title to the property always has a very strong legal position. If there is joint ownership, then a jury has to decide whether the intent of the parties was different than what is on the deed. Proving a difference is extremely difficult and expensive.

Are adoptions part of family law and do they work well for same-sex couples?

Adoptions are part of family law and they work well for same-sex couples. During the Republican administrations of [California Governors George] Deukmejian and [Pete] Wilson, there were some roadblocks thrown up. But a recent California Supreme Court ruling affirmed the way in which same-sex couples adopt children. So California is now very good about same-sex couples adopting children, be it the children of one of the partners or children that were unrelated to them. Within the last two years, California has streamlined the process for domestic partners to adopt children.

And AB205 has a very interesting provision that basically says that children born during the domestic partnership, who were intended to be children of that partnership, are to be treated like children of both parties without having to go through an adoption proceeding. It mimics the marriage law that says that children born during the marriage are children of the marriage. It's a very interesting and uncharted area of the law. We don't know what the exceptions will be.

What do you love about your job?

I love the flexibility of working for myself in a professional capacity. **next page ▶**

Queer Careers

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APRIL 24

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 Follow-up Wednesday, May 5 (7-9 PM)

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OVER 20 YEARS SERVICE TO THE LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY

ASA anniversary this weekend

by Liz Highleyman

Americans for Safe Access, the East Bay organization advocating for greater access to medical marijuana, will celebrate its two-year anniversary with a series of events this weekend.

ASA is a grassroots campaign working to halt the federal government's crackdown on medical cannabis and to allow states to determine their own laws governing medicinal use.

ASA serves as a national clearinghouse for information about

medical cannabis legislation, law enforcement activity, and political organizing. The group has organized court support, media outreach, and demonstrations in connection with several prominent local medical cannabis cases, including those of Ed Rosenthal, Angel Raich, and the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana.

ASA will host a birthday party this Friday, April 16, from 9:30 p.m. until midnight.

On Friday and Saturday the group will hold a free activist skills training. Topics will include a media spokesperson training (April 16, 2-

5 p.m.), meeting facilitation (April 16, 7-9 p.m.), and peer counseling (April 17, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).

The group will also hold a strategy session on Saturday from 1-3 p.m. to provide an opportunity for local medical cannabis activists to learn about ASA's national campaign.

All events will take place at ASA's headquarters at 1605 Ashby Avenue in Berkeley. Space for the trainings is limited; please RSVP to hilary@riseup.net.

For more information about ASA and its anniversary events, call (510) 486-8083 or visit www.safeaccessnow.org. ▼

Queer Careers

◀ previous page

ity: I come to work on business days at business hours, but I can set my own schedule. In terms of the nature of the work, I like the intellectual stimulation. I like working closely with people and assisting them through difficult times. I like working in areas where the law is evolving and having an impact on the evolution of the law. I get to work with psychologists, accountants, social workers, actuaries, and other professionals. I learn about wide varieties of law that key in to family law because the main thing I do is help people divide their property.

In addition to playing the role of advocate, I am also a family law mediator and a family law judge. When I mediate, I act as a neutral third party helping people sort things out without advocating for one of them. As a judge, I'm the decision maker. I take everybody's point of view into consideration and then I follow the law.

What's hardest about being in family law?

Sometimes it happens that people have intractable differences and they have to let somebody else decide what to do and there are really bad feelings. It's hard to see people who did at one time have loving relationships get to a nasty place, a hurtful place. I try to cast it so it doesn't take that high-tension, nasty litigation form, but sometimes that's how it's meant to be, and I have to ride it out.

How did you get started?

I went to law school in the early 1970s and there was a feminist revolution going on and I was part of it. I worked on the issue of women in the law, which included being counsel to many grassroots women's groups, personal injury law for feminists, domestic violence law, feminist business

law, etc. One group was the Women's Foundation. I helped them incorporate and get their tax-exempt status. I did the same thing for the women who created the Women's Building in San Francisco.

What would you recommend to somebody interested in the field?

First, getting the best law education you can. Not necessarily the best schools, but doing your best to learn wherever you go to school. People who want to do family law should definitely know something about how business works and how the tax code works.

Then the choice is whether to strike out on your own, form a partnership, or work for somebody.

What makes a good family law attorney?

I think some psychological acuity is absolutely essential: being able to read people's agendas, figure out their emotions, and help the client acknowledge them. If you're going solo, you absolutely have to be a really good time manager.

Could someone build a family law practice focusing on the needs of gays and lesbians?

Yes, they could. Since the state of California has been re-legislating the rules around same-sex partnerships, there is a huge wave of new legal work that is necessary. It's an extremely interesting time in family law.

Are you married?

No. I'm in a domestic partnership of 20 years with a psychiatrist.

Do you have a family?

Yes, we have a daughter named Hannah, who's 17.

Do you see differences between opposite-sex couples and same-sex

couples in how they end their relationships?

I think that the differences are greater between men and women than they are between same-sex and opposite-sex couples. It's more a gender issue than an orientation issue. Women are socialized differently than men. They have different expectations and they express themselves differently. Of course there is overlap, but men tend not to want to express their emotions as much as women. They tend to want to lead with their business-like, less emotional selves. And that's true for gay men too.

There's an expectation of men taking care of themselves that doesn't always apply to women. On the other hand, women who've been in the workforce who are then asked to support their spouses, tend to have a whole set of resentments that men don't always have.

What's it like being a lesbian in this field? Do most people assume you're straight?

I don't think most people think about it unless they're from the gay and lesbian community, because they might want someone who they're sure will understand their circumstances. I'm a professional so people don't ask me – are you married? It's not about my situation it's about their situation. Sometimes people in custody disputes want to know if I have children. They want to know if I'm going to understand parenting issues.

Thanks for your time, Sandra. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

David D. Caruso

David D. Caruso, 49, a New York fashion marketing executive and former San Franciscan, died in New York City on March 21st. He was 49 and lived in Manhattan. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Caruso was a native of the Bay Area and worked as the entertainment booker at the nightclub Trocadero where he booked such legendary acts as Grace Jones, Ann Miller, Thelma Houston and reunited Sylvester with the Weather Girls. He then joined the Portman Group of Atlanta opening the now defunct San Francisco Fashion Center in 1990.

He relocated to New York in the mid-nineties where he joined the CFDA for the introduction of 7th on Sixth, the

centralized venue for fashion shows in Bryant Park. He moved to the event licensing group IMG when 7th on Sixth was sold and served as Director of Marketing and Events.

He also was executive producer of the 7th on Sale in San Francisco, the Fashion and Friends Fighting AIDS fundraiser, the only other venue outside New York, and he worked with Black and White Ball and produced the 1995 San Francisco New Year's Eve Party held on the Embarcadero.

Memorial services in New York are planned for early May and a San Francisco celebration of life memorial will be held Saturday, April 17 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at 935 Natoma St. For additional information contact Martha Reney at mreney@hr.ucsf.edu or call 602-1227.

William "Bill" L. Gately
April 20, 1946 — April 1, 2004

Survived by his daughter, three grandchildren, sister, brother, 2 nieces, 1 nephew, and his family of friends. Bill died from complications of brain cancer. A great friend to so many he will truly be missed.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life to be held on Sunday afternoon May 2nd, from 1pm to 3pm at Calvin's home, 4145 19th St. San Francisco. (415) 863-5195.

Sherry Lea Schwenk
May 16, 1957 — March 22, 2004

Sherry passed over quite suddenly. She is survived by her father Edward Schwenk, her brother Frank and sister-in-law Debbie Schwenk and her partner Kissie Slavin. I will miss her humor and huge heart.

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Spring flings

by Jim Provenzano

Gay soccer players in Mexico City have formed their own league, called Halcones (Falcons). *Viva los nuevos futbolistas!*

The five teams – El Clan, Fashion Team, The Fuckers (I kid you not), Fuerza G, and Tu Mamá – all have full squads of men and a few women. They'll play weekly in Chapultepec Park.

League President Aarón Rojas says the group has not encountered any opposition – except from some gay people.

"We have distributed advertising in the Zona Rosa [gay neighborhood] and when we inform them that we're interested in building our soccer team, they break out laughing and say to us in a mocking way, 'Don't tear your hose or break your nails,'" Rojas said.

Doff yer kit

David Beckham, the reigning king of sports metrosexuality, may be in for some marital strife with wifey, Victoria (the former Posh

Spice), now that text messages of his alleged affairs have been published in a U.K. tabloid. Who can say if they're real? Only Becks and Cingular Wireless, and the saucy dame who allegedly goaled him and sold him out.

Another reason to be happily cell-free. And another tacky segue, this to remind you about gay soccer. With or without phone romance, this August promises to be a festival of dudes and babes.

The SF Spikes in San Francisco will host the International Gay World Soccer Championships the week of August 1-7. They're expecting between 350-400 gay men and women soccer players here for the week. And each and every one of them deserves a fan or two hundred.

Wouldn't it be great if the Mexican teams got to visit and play, too? Hey, President Bush wants immigration reform. Who wouldn't want to sponsor a team of Mexican "Fuckers"?

Find out how to volunteer, help out, athletically support, and attend one of the biggest GLBT



sports events the Bay Area will see this summer at www.sfsplikes.com.

Expert tease

Similarly stupid remarks were said by a former cater-waiter co-worker of mine, Jon Stewart. You may know him from *The Daily Show*.

After a segment about a strait member of Chicago hockey team, Stewart quipped something about "gay sports experts" then brushed it off with a sarcastic, "Of course, there aren't any gay sports experts."

Actually, with about 40 books on the topic, half a dozen major and minor Web sites about gay sports, and, gee, two international federations, plus a European one, I'd say Stewart's the one who's misinformed, even in jest.

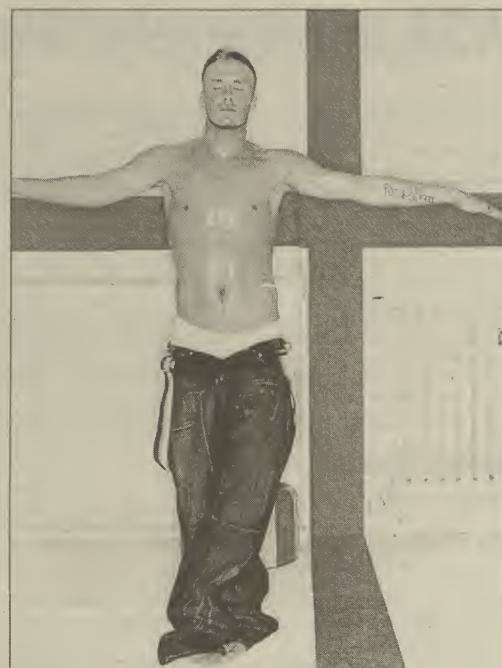
It's really funny to hear Stewart's crew otherwise skewer media idiocy, but when they themselves are the idiots ... well, come to think of it, it's still funny.

Bowl glory

Get out your trendiest retro bowling shirt, hone your swing, and polish up – someone else's shoes.

A new Wednesday community bowling league starts its summer season on April 28. This league bowls at Serra Bowl (650-992-3444) at 3301 Junipero Serra Boulevard, in Colma, which is right next to the Colma BART station.

The pre-bowling meeting to adopt league rules and finalize teams will be at 6:30 p.m., with bowling starting at 7:30. The summer league will run about 16



The passion of Beckham: Metrosexual King David, strung up by gossip rags.

weeks.

Teams consist of four players. Open spaces for teams and individuals will be filled before bowling begins on the first night. Weekly bowling will cost around \$17.

Thanks to my Aussie expatriate bowler pal Eric Anderson for the details. He also added that this is a handicap league, "so bowlers of all skill levels are encouraged to be there on the first night if they would like to get one of the open

spots."

This is one of the Bay Area's most popular gay and lesbian leagues and is a great way to meet a lot of new people and make some new friends. Info: e-mail Andy at lthrandy@comcast.net or call (510) 223-5135. Get bowled over, and out.

Volleyball, anyone?

City resident Albert Downing
next page ►

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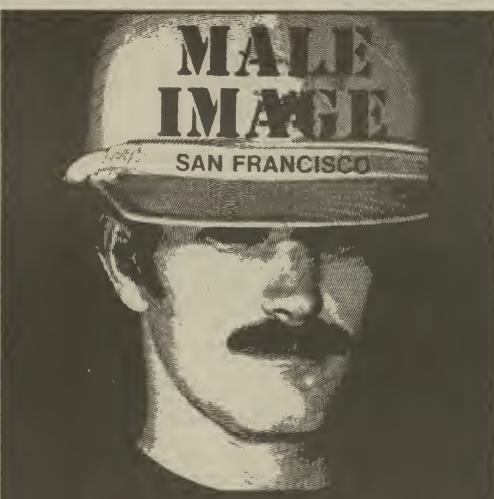
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aims to lessen the incidence of HIV infection,
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among the residents of the tenderloin
neighborhood - for more information
visit us at www.tarc.org

Hammer

◀ page 2

to bring justice to the situation, and, if you do your job well, give dignity to the dead person and their families.

"Most of the cases I prosecuted didn't get an inch of press. Many of the victims were poor folks. But all of those cases were every bit as important."

Harris announced the appointment of Solano County homicide prosecutor Valerie McGuire to take over for Hammer on April 19.

Hammer said he did not know whether any of the new hires in the DA's office were openly gay, but he does believe an openly gay presence is important for effective prosecution.

CDC funds

◀ page 12

Health Program (SFGH), California Pacific Medical Center, St. Mary's, Saint Francis, Kaiser, et al. These systems will become even more overburdened, at higher cost, to serve the same clients and patients – and increase morbidity and mortality," warned the center's Executive Director John Manzon-Santos in an e-mail to the *Bay Area Reporter* April 1.

In a phone interview Tuesday, April 13, Manzon-Santos explained the CDC grant money, totaling about \$1.15 million, cannot be used to backfill the agency's cuts in CARE-funded services. Also, he said about a third of the money will be given to national partners in cities across the country.

"Yes, we are very pleased to have been selected by the CDC," he said of the grants. "We essentially will be doing a couple things to promote the CDC's preventing HIV initiative, which includes prevention with positives. One way to do prevention with positives is to be in touch with HIV-

"I remember when Sharon Smith [Whipple's partner] was here, and she seemed mistrustful of the system, and wondering if we would go after those guys. She was so upset, and when I came out to her – I will never forget that moment that I was able to say, 'I get it.' It changed everything."

At press time, Hammer said he was still undecided about entering the District 5 race for supervisor, a race that has been wide open ever since Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez announced last month that he would not seek re-election.

Although a supporter of progressive positions like public power and higher minimum wages, Hammer, a Democrat, has also supported past campaigns of Gavin Newsom, and shies away from labeling his political tendencies. This may

not bode well in the ultra-lefty District 5, which includes the Haight and overwhelmingly supported Gonzalez for mayor last December. Other candidates in that district include Robert Haaland, a labor and housing activist and former president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, who is considered a strong contender; and Ross Mirkarimi, a Green Party activist who was a spokesman for the Gonzalez for Mayor campaign.

Whether he enters the District 5 race, Hammer said he is ready to get back to grassroots giving, and create societal change in a different way.

"My heart right now is in thinking back on my experiences in the DA's office, and finishing my job there," he said. "I'm going to take my time, keep talking to people, and check my heart before I decide." ▼



API's John Manzon-Santos

positive people, to be serving them through CARE services."

Yet as of Friday, April 23 the center will implement its cuts to services due to the drop in CARE dollars, said Manzon-Santos. The center is cutting its CARE-funded services in half.

"It really is so handcuffing and very frustrating for us," he said. "It really undermines our ability to work with HIV-positives locally."

Manzon-Santos questions how the local healthcare system will address the 35 to 40 HIV-positive, new API clients his agency receives each year – patients he said have some of the lowest rates of healthcare seeking behavior – at a time when the county is implementing new rapid HIV testing technology to increase the number of HIV-positive people who know their status.

"One of the deepest ironies is that these cuts to integrated case management decreases San Francisco's ability to provide culturally competent HIV prevention with positive services in order to comply with the mandate and investment of both CDC and the city and county of San Francisco: to identify more HIV-positive people – especially people of color – who know their positive status," said Manzon-Santos in the e-mail. "Where will all these people be referred to for effective, relevant, culturally competent HIV risk reduction, case management, healthcare access, and treatment adherence at which San Francisco has worked so hard and in which San Francisco has become a national leader?" ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

is looking for people interested in playing volleyball on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hamilton Gym, located at Geary Boulevard and Steiner Street. All levels are welcome for the level B, BB, and A open play and it's free. For more information, e-mail him at maslatin@aol.com.

Wheel bear, oh!

Those bears get around, and on bikes. Support their second year as one of many colorful clans participating in LifeCycle 3, the SF AIDS Foundation's new leaner, cleaner fundraising ride.

Meet Team Bear at its beverage benefit at Daddy's bar on Castro Street this Sunday, April 25 from 6-9 p.m.

Sign up to sponsor a bear on wheels, and I'm sure he'll let you check out his fancy pack. Cal Callahan, a volunteer director for the SF AIDS Foundation, is a proud member and local organizer.

"Bears are underrepresented," particularly in the sports community, he said. "Bear-identified folks on previous rides had been there, but not in great numbers. But hanging with the guys who did, I wanted to address the stereotypes, that bears wouldn't do this kind of event."

But it's not just a bear thing, despite the warm affinity between hirsute homos. Callahan added that anyone can join the group.

"The first year," he said, "we had a bearish straight guy, and a Filipino woman – she was our Goldilocks." Ismail El-Shareef leads the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center Bears. "Team Bear was launched to fight AIDS and apathy toward HIV and AIDS," El-Shareef said. "The diverse community of Los Angeles has been very supportive of Team Bear as it raises funds and awareness for HIV and AIDS. It makes me feel proud of such a humanitarian community."

Team Bear is currently partnering with various bear establishments and clubs in an effort to optimize efforts against HIV and AIDS. Fundraising events are being scheduled in Northern and Southern California. Find out more at www.teambear.org. More information on AIDS/LifeCycle 3 may be found at www.aidslifecycle.org, or by calling 1-800-BIKE4AIDS.

The S Word

Speaking of road trips, for the San Jose-bound, women's softball offers a great addition to the already under way Gay Softball League here San Francisco.

The player-run softball league is "for lesbians and their friends." The Savoy Women's Softball League began its second season of play with 11 teams that play in San Jose's Mise Park.

A large part of this league's quick success? They recruit inexperienced players, and teach them how to play, while also offering viable competition for the sport's

seasoned veterans.

Opening ceremonies last week featured a game between last year's Recreational Division champions, the Stray Cats, versus the league's newly-formed Amazons.

Admission is free and all games are played on Monday nights. Game schedule and directions to the fields can be found on the league's temporary Web site at www.hometown.aol.com/gotourgameon. The SWSL warmly welcomes all women. "We strive to foster friendship and understanding between the lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender and general communities," organizers noted. For information on signups for both teams and individuals, visit the league's Web site for contact information or call (408) 236-2078.

Tsunami de Mayo

With a name that's cute, it doesn't need a funny subhead.

Tsunami Polo's two-day tournament the first weekend in May, and its kickass "Splish" benefit Saturday, May 1, will draw water polo teams from around the country. Be sure to figure out how to get out to the 'burbs and witness the wet wonders of water polo. Then, carouse in a club with the crews. Info: www.tsunamipolo.org. ▼

Enjoy more "gay sports expertise" at www.sportscomplex.org.

News in brief

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Center West, third floor ballroom, 800 Howard Street at Fourth in San Francisco. Zimbardi will receive NCLR's Justice Award for her work in achieving a settlement with UF after alleging sexual orientation discrimination.

Other awardees include long-time activist and artist Ronnie Gilbert (Founder's Award), filmmaker Cheryl Dunye (Community Vision Award), and actress Sharon Stone, who will receive NCLR's first Spirit Award, which will be presented by Mayor Gavin Newsom.

NCLR staff members said that the event is nearly sold out, but a few tickets (\$200 per person) remain. To order by fax only, send a typed page labeled "gala ticket order" with your name, address, contact information (including e-mail and phone), and credit card information to Jessica Powers at (415) 392-8442. The reception begins at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner and awards program at 7:30 and dancing at 10. For more information, call NCLR at (415) 392-6257, ext. 314. ▼

AEF benefit coming up

The AIDS Emergency Fund's 22nd annual awards gala will take place Sunday, April 25 and tickets are now available. This year, AEF is hosting "The Fortune Tellers Ball" and the event will feature psychics, tarot card readers, palm readers, astrologers, and numerologists. The benefit takes place at the new SOMA dance space Mighty, 119 Utah Street, between 15th and Alameda streets, in San Francisco, from 4-8 p.m., and will also include a live and silent auction. Live auction items include a one-week stay in a two-bedroom villa at the luxurious Esperanza Resort in Cabo San Lucas valued at over \$10,000 and a 7-day and 12-day cruise for two on Holland America Lines.

The afternoon starts off with a reception featuring a buffet by Out of Thyme Catering and Absolut martinis, followed by the awards presentation at 6:30 and the live auction at 7:15. Tickets to next Sunday's event are \$90 per person and can be purchased online at www.aidsemergencyfund.org. Click on events. For more information, call AEF at (415) 588-6999. ▼

Pride marshals

◀ page 5

and sexual orientation based asylum seekers.

And finally, public votes gave Attorney General John Ashcroft the "Pink Brick" award, the anti-award bestowed upon the most virulent antigay and anti-equality spokespersons. Ashcroft's history of support for segregation and right-wing positions against LGBT equality and a woman's right to choose made him a shoe-in for the "honor," according to Pride officials.

Other marshals already chosen include celebrity grand marshal

actor Alan Cumming and lifetime achievement grand marshal the Reverend Troy Perry, founder and moderator of Metropolitan Community Church.

Still to be chosen include marshals selected by a college of past grand marshals, and up to three appointed by the Pride board to fill in any gaps.

Additionally, Pride has acknowledged that those involved with the historic same-sex marriages in San Francisco in February and March will get special recognition during the event. The annual celebration is held this year over the June 26-27 weekend with a theme of "Out 4 Justice." ▼

Coinfection

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about 5 percent per year in the group as a whole, and about 17 percent among the injection drug users.

The researchers also found that just 4 percent of the HIV/HCV coinfected individuals in the study were receiving treatment for hepatitis C. ▼

"There is a profound lack of treatment," said Dr. Christopher Hall from the UCSF Epidemiology and Prevention Interventions Center at San Francisco General Hospital. "That's the big surprise."

Most study participants (94 percent) had a primary care physician, 40 percent had a caseworker, and nearly half were being treated for HIV. But only about 20 percent of the coinfected individuals had been referred to a liver specialist who could determine whether they needed to be treated for hepatitis C.

Not all people with hepatitis C require treatment, which is usually reserved for those who show evidence of liver diseases progression as indicated by a liver biopsy. But, the researchers said, the number of individuals who could benefit from treatment is certainly higher than the number receiving it.

Standard treatment for hepatitis C is a combination of pegylated interferon plus ribavirin. HCV treatment usually lasts six to 18 months and can cause debilitating side effects including flu-like symptoms and depression. Treatment gets rid of HCV about half the time in people with hepatitis

C alone, but the cure rate is lower in coinfected people.

"Hepatitis C therapy is difficult to take, there can be severe side effects, and it is expensive. However, unlike HIV therapy, hepatitis C therapy cures some people of their infection," said lead investigator Dr. David Bangsberg. "Imagine that we had a treatment for HIV that cured 30-50 percent of individuals but only made it available to a precious few."

People with HIV in San Francisco are eligible for free or low-cost care through the public health system, but the city has not yet seriously addressed the problem of coinfection.

"San Francisco, like most urban centers, simply has not risen to the challenge of making HCV therapy available in the same way it made HIV therapy available in the 1980s and 1990s," said Hall. He suggested the situation was probably even worse in other large cities.

According to a letter in the *San Francisco Chronicle* from long-time public health physician Dr. Teresa Palmer, hepatitis C testing and treatment have been "essentially omitted" at SF General Hospital for budgetary reasons. "Referral to UCSF clinics 'on the hill' for this purpose takes more paperwork, phone calls, and waiting than most General docs and their patients are capable of in our overcrowded and underfunded system," Palmer wrote.

Bangsberg said SFGH has begun a new effort to meet the needs of coinfected individuals, but it is too soon to see the results "on the street." ▼

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E19

STATEMENT FILE A-0274457-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Z's Famous Jeweler 889 1/2 17th St.,
San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This
business is conducted by a husband and
wife signed Jing Shao. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 03-15-04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 03-15-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273894-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Pussy Kat Productions 4096 17th St.,
#204 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This
business is conducted by an individual signed
Kathleen Amendola. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 02-24-04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 02-24-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274644-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: HD Technology 211 Ashton Avenue San
Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is con-
ducted by an individual signed Yue Bing
Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 03-
22-04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274637-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Big Art's Hauling 1319 S. Van Ness
Ave San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This busi-
ness is conducted by an individual signed
Arturo Pleitez. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 03-22-04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FILE NO. CFC 04-541243**

In the Matter of the Application of Sandra
Elizabeth Merk for Change of Name. The
application of Sandra Elizabeth Merk for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Sandra Elizabeth Merk has filed an applica-
tion proposing that his/her name be
changed to Elizabeth Sandra Cocco. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,
that the persons interested in said application
do appear in the Superior Court, Department
218 on the 20th day of May at 9:00am of
said day to show cause why the application
for change of name should not be granted.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274676-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Minda Lee Fine Home Detailing 429
Douglas St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114.
This business is conducted by an individual
signed Minda Jo Lee. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on n/a. The statement was filed with
the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
on 03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME, FILE NO: A-0269342-00

The following person(s) have abandoned
the use of the fictitious business name
known as: King's Cafe. Located at: 1338
Polk St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This
business was conducted by an individual
signed Tony Chi-Man Yu. The fictitious
name referred to above was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on:
08/21/03.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0274720-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunrise Laundry 704 Polk St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed H. To. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-23-04.

APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274696-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Level 3, 580 California Street, 16th Floor, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Woll Sterling. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-23-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-23-04.

APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274780-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Hearing Health Care of San Francisco, Inc. 303 Caselli Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Robert Baker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-25-04.

APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274867-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Context 250 Fell St. #54 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Jimmy Kansau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-29-04.

APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275017-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sustainability Resources 43 Russell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott Edmondson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-02-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-02-04.

APR 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275042-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: CCS Construction Coordination 230 California St., Ste. 508 San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Marek Slosar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-02-04.

APR 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275231-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Gallery Lounge on Brannan 510 Brannan St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Timothy Mark Landregan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-09-04.

STATEMENT FILE A-0275114-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mr. E's Custom Design 1592 Union St. #254 San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Erin Baker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-06-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-06-04.

APR 15, 22, 29 MAY 6 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275220-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Pink Cat Productions, 4096 17th St. #204 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathleen Amendola. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-16-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-16-04.

APR 15, 22, 29 MAY 6 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275246-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: TechNets 2230 Balboa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rick Nguy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-12-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-12-04.

APR 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

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LEGAL
NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CFC 04-541288

In the Matter of the Application of Calvinn Shih for Change of Name. The application of Calvinn Shih for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Calvinn Shih has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Calvinn S. Wang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of June at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 15, 22, 29 MAY 6 2004

E16

STATEMENT FILE A-0274569-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: AK Meats 2346 Clement Street San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a limited liability partnership signed Spiros Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-17-04.

APR. 15, 22, 29 MAY 6 2004

E16

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E16

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Qualifications #277 Dear Potential Applicant:

The San Francisco Department of Human Services (DHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from agencies and/or individuals interested in providing the SRO Meals Pilot Program. The SRO Meals Pilot Program will provide meals to formerly homeless, elderly, or disabled individuals living in identified Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels in the Tenderloin district. The Department may issue multiple awards for this pilot program as a result of this RFQ. Qualified agencies or individuals may respond.

The contract will be for the period of 6/1/04 to 9/30/04, for an amount to be determined. An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, starting Thursday, April 8, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFP packets and subsequent updates will also be available on the City's website. Go to [HTTP://SUNSETCLSFCAU.USP/BIDS.NSF](http://SUNSETCLSFCAU.USP/BIDS.NSF) and click on the 'Consultants and Professional Services' link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Monday, April 19, 2004 at 11:00 AM at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang, at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 3:00 PM. 04/22/04 • CNS-663063#

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CIV. 04-541252
 In the Matter of the Application of Kristy Ann Kosach for Change of Name. The application of Kristy Ann Kosach for Change of Name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kristy Ann Kosach has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kristy Ann Weller. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of May at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 15, 22, 29 May 6 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274900-00
 The following person(s) are doing business as: Picnic 1808 Polk St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jasmine Tan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-30-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-30-04.
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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SONOMA
ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF
SUMMONS (MARRIAGE)
CASE NUMBER: 23174

Regarding the Marriage of Sandy La Chan-thay, petitioner and Xie Rizhen, respondent. IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon respondent, Xie Rizhen, by publication thereof in the Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco County, California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication. Dated March 15, 2004. Arnold D. Rosenfeld, Judge/Commissioner of Superior Court, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sonoma

APR 8, 15, 22 29 2004

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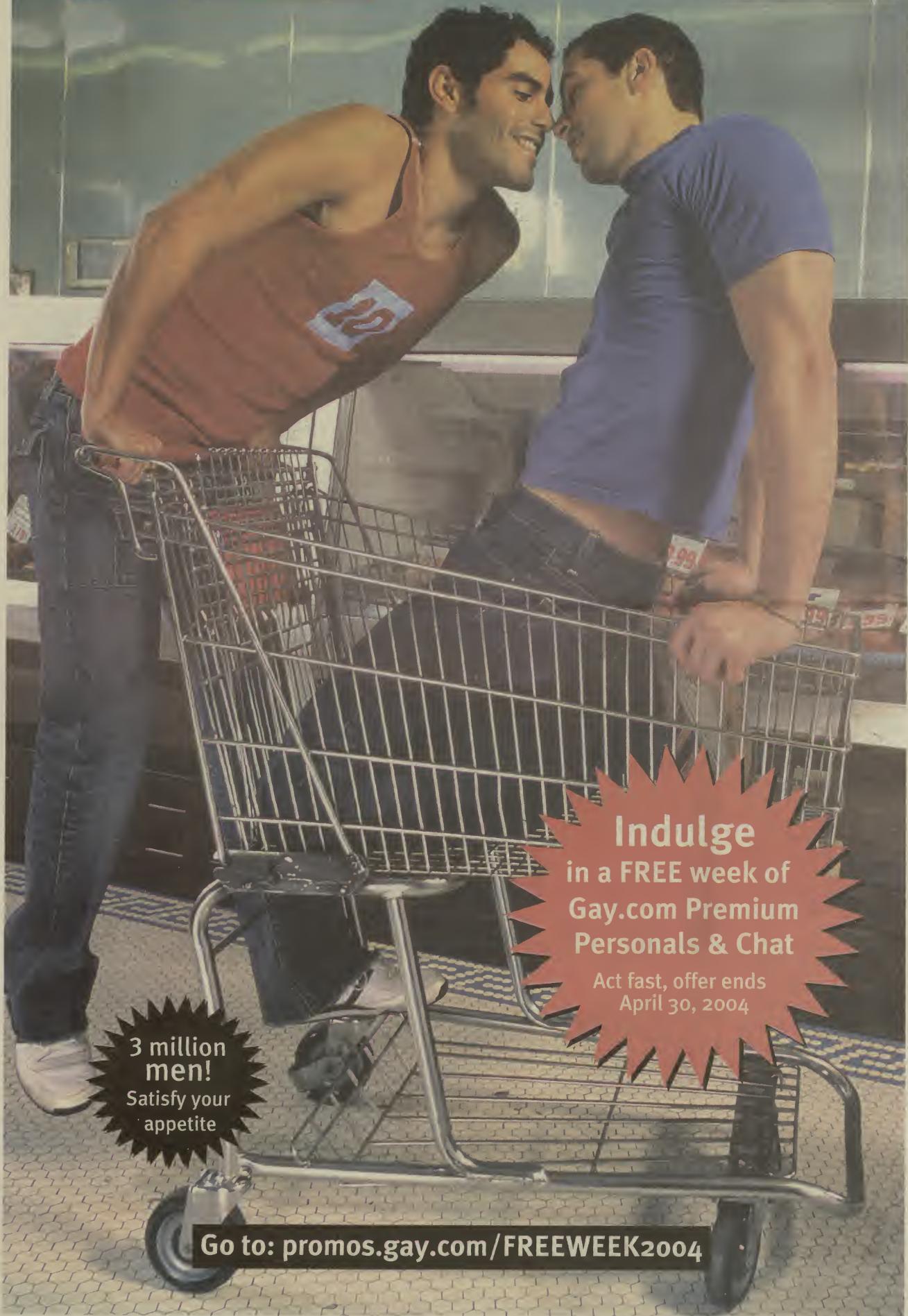
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San Francisco theatre in review
'Flaming Iguanas' at Theatre Rhinoceros,
'The Smell of the Kill' at the Playhouse.
page 31

Pros of 'Connie'
Actress and writer Nia
Vardalos on her new film.
page 39



Goddess in silk
Cyd Charisse and 'Silk
Stockings' at the Castro.
page 45



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 34 • No. 16 • 15 April 2004

BAY AREA REPORTER

Kick-boxers, beauty queens and movie stars

Beautiful Boxer is the true-life story of a Thai champion kick-boxer.



Highlights from the 47th SF Int. Film Festival, week one

by David Lamble

This 47th San Francisco International Film Festival, April 15-29, is a treasure chest of nonfiction film, a genre that grows in its ability to employ the best of fiction's tools to capture life's lunacies, large and small. Perhaps in no other year have I realized the impossibility of covering the waterfront, even of films with some significant queer content. What follows is simply my Top 10 list: five films which screen at the Castro Theatre (Cas), which is well employed as a Festival showcase; and five films at the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres (Kab) and the Pacific Film Archive Theater in Berkeley (PFA).

Beautiful Boxer The true-life story of an effeminate country bumpkin who uses his skills as a Thai champion kick-boxer to change himself into a female beauty-queen. Told in a long flashback to a jaded Western reporter, Nong Toom's tale begins quietly with a frightened kid kicked out of a Buddhist monastery for displaying a penchant

page 36 ►

Wanna get folked?

'Queer as Folk's Season Four premieres
by David Nahmod

After one of the longest hiatuses in television history, Showtime's audacious, groundbreaking gay soap opera *Queer as Folk* returns for its fourth season, premiering Sunday, April 18.

Eighteen months ago, we left antihero Brian without a job after it was discovered that he was playing double-agent, creating ad campaigns to both elect and defeat homophobic mayoral candidate Jim Stockwell.

We left Michael on the run with Hunter, the HIV-positive teenage hustler he's trying to rescue from the streets and from an abusive mother. And when we last saw Ted, he was a broken man, crawling into rehab like a hurt puppy. The series certainly knows how to present a good cliffhanger!

So what happens next to the good folks on Liberty Avenue?

On Sunday at 10 p.m., *Queer as Folk* will pick up where it left off.



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

jennifer garner

13. going on 30

A comedy for the kid in all of us.

in theaters April 23

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13 going on 30 opens in theaters on Friday, April 23!

REVOLUTION STUDIOS COLUMBIA PICTURES

BAY AREA REPORTER

Invite you and a guest to a special screening on Thursday, April 22nd in San Francisco.

Jennifer Garner stars in the TV series *Alias*. Name the secret agent she plays for your chance to receive a complimentary pass (good for two).

Bring a copy of this ad along with your answer to the offices of the Bay Area Reporter (395 Ninth Street in San Francisco) beginning on Friday, April 16th during normal business hours.

Each pass admits two. Limit one pass per household (no exceptions). Passes are limited and will be given away on a first-come first-serve basis while supplies last.

Please note: Passes issued through this promotion do not guarantee you a seat at the screening. Screening will be held on a first-come first-serve basis. Excludes members of the Bay Area Reporter staff. There is no guarantee to ensure a full house. No substitutions will be honored. No telephone calls. Any award or prize is subject to tax. Any tax is the sole responsibility of the recipient. No cash value. Any restrictions required by law apply. Revolution Studios, Columbia Pictures, Bay Area Reporter and their affiliates accept no responsibility or liability in connection with any loss or accident incurred in connection with use of a prize. Participating sponsors and their employees and family members and their agencies are not eligible. NO PHONE CALLS.

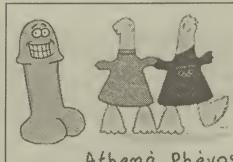
Sentencing limits

Out There keeps it short and sweet

by Roberto Friedman

Out There is sometimes guilty of asking people (say, a writer pitching a story) to please make it short and sweet. At presstime, we're always racing against the clock, and everybody wants a little piece of us. Sometimes they even want a bigger piece.

So here we follow our own advice and keep things pithy. If we can't say it in a sentence, we should just shut up and go home!



Got an extra turtleneck?

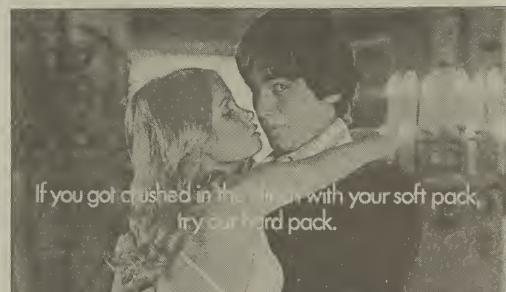
• The new **Olympic Mascots** for the Summer Games in Athens (Greece, not Georgia) are obviously related to San Francisco's very own **Healthy Penis** — just give him a sweater and he fits right in!

• Our favorite political slogan of the Presidential campaign so far, the **Democratic National Committee** display ad on blogger **Joshua Micah Marshall's** *Talking Points Memo* shows a picture of a donkey and declares, "Your ass is on the line!"

• If I am named **'Grape'**, a 239-part series in the *San Francisco Chronicle* all about Sonoma County vineyard life, what am I doing in the *Book of the Month* section and not in the *Chronicle's* own weekly *Wine* section?

• The **Felix Gonzalez-Torres** (1957-96) survey on show at Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary, through May 29 proves that the Cuban-American artist with that briefest sparkler of a career was also one of the brightest lights of late 20th-century art.

• A group from the former **Trocadero Transfer** have come together to put on a retro dance at The Glas Kat (former the Troc), the **Tea Dance** on Sunday, April 18, 6 p.m.-2 a.m., with DJ **Robbie Leslie** from The Saint, Studio 54, and Palladium coming in from



From The Secret Sales Pitch: An Overview of Subliminal Advertising, by August Bullock



It's fun to find the subliminal erection in a cigarette ad, circa 1970s.

Florida to play the event; and two of the original lighting people working the lights and arc lamp (*info on event line*, 415-339-7807 or www.remembertheparty.com.)

• What **famous local chanteuse** may be returning to the San Francisco stage after a 25-year absence?

• Exercise in brevity = over.

Sex pitch

We've always been big fans of those books that purport to expose the hidden messages concealed in subliminal advertising, and a new one by author **August Bullock**, *The Secret Sales Pitch* (Norwich), looks like a good example of the genre. As an example of how cigarette and alcohol companies use cues set just below the level of consciousness, Bullock offers this example from a magazine ad for **Benson & Hedges 100s**. The slogan is, "If you got crushed in the clinch with your soft pack, try our hard pack."



Out There

Hard pack, hmm.

Blowing up the part of the image where the young man has his hand resting on the young woman's back reveals just why the guy has such a lusty leer on his pretty puss. Turns out he's stroking his big erection! We almost ran right out and purchased a hard pack, and we don't even smoke!

Bullock also fully explicates a creepy **Smirnoff** ad which features the hidden face of a spooky demon. He claims that the subtext of the ad's party scene, a group of women about to hurl their party drinks into a guy's face, is meant to appeal to women who drink heavily and resent men. If we must take a splash in the face on the rocks.

Out There thinks all this decoying and decoding is terribly amusing, but we promise (DUMP BUSH) we'd never try anything like that with our dear readers.

Romancing the Stone

Apparently, actress **Sharon Stone**'s spirit wasn't broken by her public break-up with *SF Chronicle* editor **Phil Bronstein**. She'll be accepting the first-ever NCLR Spirit Award from San Francisco Mayor **Gavin Newsom** at the **National Center for Lesbian Rights** Gala on Saturday, April 24, at Moscone Center West in SF.

The Spirit Award recognizes contributions by allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Stone has long been active with organizations that serve the HIV/AIDS community.

Other awardees will include longtime activist/artist **Ronnie Gilbert**, award-winning filmmaker **Cheryl Dunye** and NCLR client **Andrea Zimbardi**. Guests are to include gay former Minnesota Vikings lineman **Esera Tuaolo**, lesbian biographer/author **Blanche Wiesen Cook** and lesbian health activist **Doretha Williams-Flournoy**. Musical guests are **Zakiya Hooker & Bluz**

page 34 ►

Life casting by Bibia

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Three men stuffed in a freezing meat-locker

'The Smell of the Kill' at the Playhouse

by Richard Dodds

What is the opposite of a misogynist? A misterogynist? In *The Smell of the Kill*, playwright Michele Lowe suggests that dead husbands may be the best kind.

At least, it's a notion that three unhappily married women seriously consider when their spouses accidentally lock themselves in a frigid basement meat-locker. Realizing they can easily claim ignorance despite the frantic poundings from below, they debate the pros and cons of letting them freeze to death. It's a dark comedy that means to be current but feels strangely dated.

Lowe's play, seen briefly on Broadway in 2002, is the current attraction in the inaugural season of the Playhouse. This new second-story theater just off Union Square is a comfortable venue of about 100 seats and a ballroom-like lobby.

The exquisite kitchen set of exaggerated perspectives, designed by Artistic Director Bill English, promises a polished production, and in this regard, *Smell of the Kill* delivers. English's direction of the 90-minute play and the performances by the three actresses are



Stacy Ross, Zehra Berkman and Susi Damilano play three married women with a plan.

on target.

The play takes place after a dinner party, as the wives take refuge in the kitchen while their unseen spouses commandeer the dining room for men-talk. Though they are slow to admit it, each of the wives is deeply unhappy, and their bickering among themselves turns to talk of murder by neglect.

The husbands are clearly chauvinistic assholes, and if the play was set at a time when divorce was not such an easy option, then extreme measures might make some more sense. The play suggests that the women finally show their strength when they begin consid-

ering allowing their husbands to freeze, but it's really a weaker choice than actually confronting their spouses.

But this may be too much analysis for a play that has the slick chemistry of a sharply written sitcom. A lot of laughter was generated on opening night, and Lowe definitely has sharp comic instincts that Stacy Ross, Zehra Berkman, and Susi Damilano have fully mined. ▼

The Smell of the Kill will run at the Playhouse through May 15. Tickets are \$30. Call 677-9596 or go to ticketweb.com.

Roaming tomato

'Flaming Iguanas' moves around at Rhino

by Richard Dodds

Flaming Iguanas, the current attraction at Theatre Rhino, feels more like a stunt than a serious theatrical effort. But stunts can be fun too, and the 90-minute show has its intermittent amusements.

Collaborators John Fisher and Duca Knezevic have taken Erika Lopez's picaresque novel, the story of a young woman's physical and emotional journey, and turned it into a journey for audiences as well. As Tomato Rodriguez motorcycles across the United States, audiences are led from the main theater to the studio downstairs to the backstage alley to an outdoor lot, before returning to the theater for the final scene.

The mood is casual, the special effects are comically low-tech, and flubs are openly acknowledged. But the high spirits of this loosey-goosey approach don't do much for the actual story being told. Scenes feel shapeless, and the performances don't add much in the way of dramatic rhythms.

As the sexually confused Tomato Rodriguez, who has only had lesbian sex with men, Mirla Reyes has a kind of Marga Gomez-like appeal. But the performance isn't



Mirla Reyes, Octavio Saez de Ibarra in Theatre Rhino's *Flaming Iguanas*.

strong enough to focus the haphazard energies. Libby O'Connell gets some laughs as Tomato's high-strung traveling buddy and as Tomato's yenta-like mother, but there isn't much fun in Molly Shaiken's performance as the SF lesbian at the end of Tomato's journey. Octavio Saez de Ibarra is the best of the other performers, all of whom play multiple roles. There is imagination on view,

notably in the little vignettes that audiences pass on the way to the next playing area. But all the moving about should be an enhancement to the story rather than a welcome distraction from it. ▼

Flaming Iguanas will run at Theatre Rhino through April 24. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.



photo: Timothy Roberts



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Humana behavior

Report from Louisville's 'Humana Festival of New American Plays'

by Richard Dodds

Perhaps the modern equivalent of a one-horse town is the one-Starbucks town. That's downtown Louisville, a place where the symbol of pervasive corporate spread becomes a beacon of civilization. You see, it's not like Starbucks chased off any charming homegrown institutions. The alternative is pretty much a cellophane-wrapped bagel at the chain drugstore, one of the few downtown retail options in this city on the Ohio River.

Yet somehow, in the midst of the vacuum has grown a major theater operation with an international reputation. During most of the year, the Actors Theatre of Louisville offers traditional programming for local audiences, but every spring for the past 28 years, it has welcomed worldwide visitors to its Humana Festival of New American Plays.

During the recent visitor's weekend, eight full-blown productions were performed in three days on a morning, afternoon, and evening repertory schedule. As always, there were hits and misses in the bunch, but at least two seem ready for more exposure, three are intriguing need-work enterprises, and only one failed to ignite at all.

The festival was the brainchild of Jon Jory, who took over the failing theater in 1969, and provided it with a route to fame and endowment. He did this by giving new works classy productions, and then aggressively inviting journalists and theater personnel to special weekends when all the shows can be seen over three days on the three stages.

In the early days, the theater cemented its reputation by staging the world premieres of *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Gin Game*, *Execution of Justice*, *Extremities*, and numerous plays by the pseudonymous Jane Martin (who most people now believe is Jon Jory). Those heady days are over, and expectations are now lower, but the festival continues to lure crowds eager for the theatrical immersion experience under current Artistic Director Marc Masterson.

While the Humana Festival has had some gay content in the past, it's never felt like a mission, and this year's plays were free of overt LGBT content. But at least two of the plays were queer-friendly, and the happy news is that they were also the top efforts.

The best was Gina Gionfriddo's *After Ashley*, a smart, funny, and disturbing play that looks at the link between celebrity and tragedy. In this case, the tragedy is the murder and rape of a free-spirited mother but unhappy wife. The fame that follows is spurned by her embittered son and sought by her pseudo-liberal husband.

The former is dubbed "The 911 Kid" by *People* magazine after his anguished call to the police becomes famous, even getting sampled into a rap song. The father becomes the eager host of a victims' TV show that ignores the tottering relationship he had with his late wife. The different trajec-



Jesse Hooker and Carla Harting as son and mother in *After Ashley*.

ties of father and son, after various attempts at reconciliation, eventually collide in a horrific but queerly funny finale.

If *After Ashley* is a Berkeley Rep kind of play, then *The Ruby Sunrise* would probably be most at home locally at ACT. Rinne Groff's play opens in 1927 Indiana, where a tomboy sets out to be the first to build a functioning television system. In the second act, the boarding-house set splits apart to reveal a television studio in the early 1950s where the daughter of the fledgling inventor is trying to get her mother's story on the air.



A scene from *The Ruby Sunrise*.

In the end, we watch a live TV drama of the girl's story, and the sets for the "real" scenes at the top of the play become the sets for the broadcast version, with actors playing broad versions of the characters we had met earlier. Partly a story of perseverance and partly a send-up of showbiz phoniness, the play is an imaginative effort that loses its way in final moments.

Considerable promise is evident in Kirsten Greenidge's *Sans-culottes in the Promised Land*, although the play eventually falls clumsily into a kind of fairy-tale absurdism. It's mainly the story of the young daughter of an upscale black family, who, despite her parents' efforts at imparting ancestral pride, dreams only of being white. For at least its first half, *Sans-cul-*

otes provides a refreshingly different take on racial identity.

The best-known playwright in the 2004 festival was Naomi Iizuka, whose *36 Views* was seen at Berkeley Rep. At *the Vanishing Point*, staged offsite in an abandoned warehouse in Louisville's Butchertown district, is a series of subdued monologues that tell stories of the area's past. But the warehouse, a good idea on paper, proved somewhat inhospitable to the piece's ephemeral nature, and a unifying purpose was hard to decipher.

A final note on downtown Louisville: All is not lost. A Hard Rock Café is on its way.

Road maps

There's been a flurry of news from and about San Francisco's Best of Broadway series. BOB finally gave up on the much-delayed, much-recast *Sweet Charity* revival, and has plugged the hole with the Broadway revival of *Little Shop of Horrors*. It opens Nov. 10 at the Golden Gate.

BOB has filled another hole in its current season with the recent Broadway revival of *Big River*, the Huck Finn musical, created by the Deaf West Theatre. American Sign Language is combined with the original script and songs, and performed by a cast of hearing and deaf performers. It begins performances at the Curran on June 11.

It's not been officially announced, but *Playbill Online* quotes director Walter Bobbie in revealing that a new stage version of the film *White Christmas* will have its world premiere at the Curran on Nov. 2. Ironically, Bobbie is also directing the *Sweet Charity* revival.

Doug Wright's *I Am My Own Wife*, which recently won the Pulitzer Prize in drama, had been expected to be part of ACT's upcoming season. The title was even included in an ad for the new season in the program for *The Time of Your Life*. But now it looks as if BOB has flexed its muscles and scooped up the show for its own season.

Let's hope BOB can also land acclaimed performer Jefferson Mays from the Broadway production. Mays plays 40 characters in the real-life story of a German transvestite who managed to survive both the Nazis and the Communists. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



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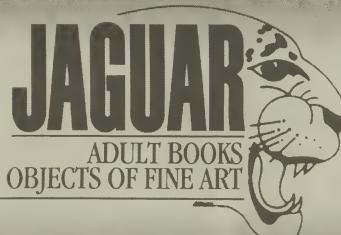
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Dark masterpieces

Unsettling works at the symphony

by Philip Campbell

Concert programming at Davies Hall has not been very Spring-like recently. The general mood has in fact ranged from the darkly cerebral to the downright bellicose. Considering the present state of the world and the war in Iraq, it may have been more seasonally appropriate after all.



Salonen had a contemporary take.

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, made his San Francisco Symphony debut with the first local performances of his own unsettling composition *Insomnia*. Yuri Temirkanov followed him last week with a commanding interpretation of Shostakovich's massive and sometimes brutal Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad*. Hardly easy listening, but ultimately both concerts proved satisfying.

Salonen wisely chose to frame his own work with carefully chosen complementary pieces. *A Night on Bald Mountain* received its first SFS performances in the original simpler and rawer version. Mussorgsky's fiendishly frenzied visit to a haunted landscape related well to Salonen's altogether more contemporary take on nocturnal anxiety.

The cherubically handsome maestro from the Southland has already demonstrated his considerable writing ability, but *Insomnia* signals a mature talent in full control of the orchestra. The lush

sonorities and rhythmic complexity of his series of variations on a theme are concise and memorable. Salonen coaxed the musicians through the difficult score with a sure hand, and the results were very impressive. We probably will not get to hear it again anytime soon, but *Insomnia* deserves a good recording and repeated exposure.

The evening continued with a bravura rendition of Prokofiev's exciting Piano Concerto No. 1 with Yefim Bronfman as the stunning soloist. I have seldom encountered a more considered or carefully molded account of this attractive but somewhat messy score. For once, it made perfect sense, and none of the virtuoso passagework proved too difficult. Bronfman graciously responded to the thunderous ovation with an encore: Bach, of all things! It also made sense in this context.

The concert concluded with Bartok's sinister and erotic orchestral suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin*. Salonen had the orchestra fully heated up by this point, and the headlong charge through the lurid nightscape ended with a violent and thrilling climax.

Russian sprawl

Yuri Temirkanov has appeared at Davies Hall several times in the past with his primary orchestra, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and has guest-conducted the SFS repeatedly since his local debut in 1975. His Russian pedigree and studies at the Leningrad Conservatory give him unique credentials in the performance of Shostakovich.

For his most recent concert here, Temirkanov opted to devote the entire evening to the grueling, sprawling, thrilling and ultimately triumphant Shostakovich Seventh. Always a "problem" piece, the epic score requires a strong vision and more than a little physical stamina to pull off successfully. Temirkanov came much closer than most in making the uneven work appear a masterpiece.

Written in the horrific days of the siege of Leningrad, the Seventh Symphony displays almost all of what is gloriously right and wrong with Shostakovich's undeniably genius. There is bombast and hollow exultance in plenty,



Temirkanov had an eye on the prize.

and some coarse theatricality too, but the composer could also write dirges and slow passages of unremitting intensity. Temirkanov kept his eye on the prize, and finished the marathon with honors.

He also elicited some of the richest and most heartfelt string playing of the season to date. Any performance of the Seventh becomes an event due to its length and huge orchestral demands. Temirkanov seemed undaunted by the task: more concerned with focus than perfection, and more than willing to bow to the composer's wayward inspiration.

There are moments of sheer Hollywood epic about the score and pages of ponderous note-spinning, but Shostakovich was too brilliant and emotional a writer to let such an important document degenerate into mere Soviet propaganda. The pain and terror of those awful days in the early 1940s remain viscerally moving, and the conductor did not avoid a deep and necessary catharsis. The fabulously exciting crescendo of the first movement was especially overwhelming.

Shostakovich allowed for a certain tentative triumph in his symphony's finale. While the world watches the ugliness and brutality of the current events in Iraq, Temirkanov's decision to program the piece seemed eerily appropriate. Can we possibly hope for any such sense of triumph in the Middle East? These ideas were running through our heads at the shattering conclusion of the recent concerts. ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

4 U: rounding out the evening's entertainment will be **DJ Tribal** and emcee comedian **Kate Clinton**. Info: www.NCLRights.org.

Lesbians to look out for

In a recent edition of the [UK] *Financial Times*, a glowing interview with **Jeanne-Michèle Charbonnet**, the New Orleans-born soprano now wowing them at the Paris Opera, waxed on about her voice (it's a "column of sound"), her stage presence — and her unashamed gay life.

"Then there's her unfussy attitude to her sexuality," reports *FT* arts writer **Francis Carlin** a few laudatory paragraphs in. "Now 40, Charbonnet has been with the same female partner for 20 years, and has a six-year-old son through artificial insemination.

"But she doesn't make a sandwich-issue of it. If people

ask, I tell them. As soon as you have a child, how can you lie? My son's aware: he wants to know why **Bush** is stupid enough not to want gay people to get married."

Bravo to the littlest Charbonnet!

Gull stream

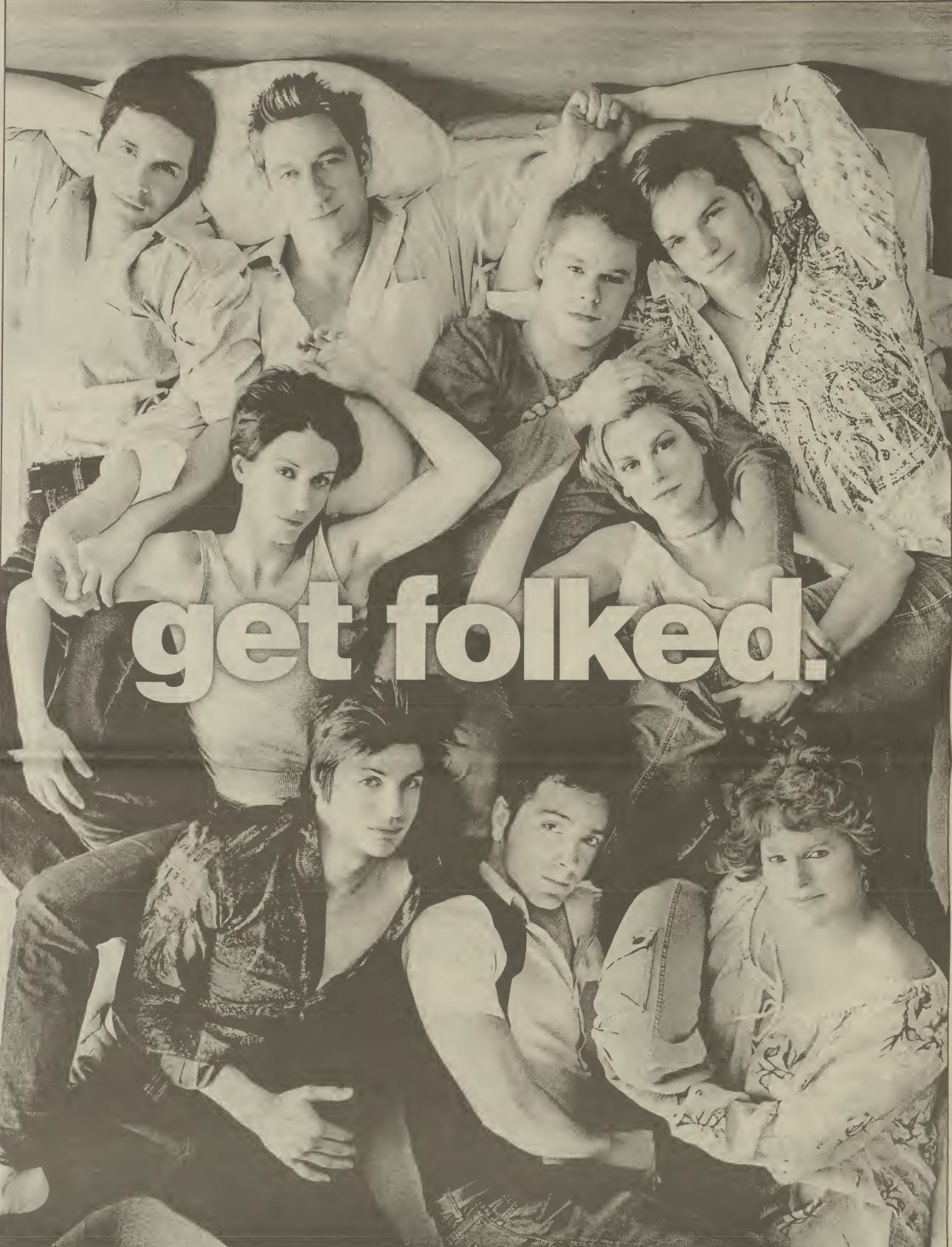
San Francisco Opera Center will present a new production of **Thomas Pasatieri's** *The Seagull* for the 2004 Opera Center Showcase, April 23-May 2 at Fort Mason Center's Cowell Theater. Led by the Opera Center's Director of Musical Studies **Mark Morash**, the production will be performed by the 2004 Adler Fellows with staging by **Francine Landes**, scenic and lighting design by **Christopher Maravich** and costumes by **Kathleen Lussier-West**.

Leading the cast are sopranos **Jane Archibald** as Masha, **Nikki Einfeld** as Pauline and **Karen Slack** as Irina Arkadina; mezzo-soprano **Katherine Rohrer** as Nina; tenor **Thomas Glenn** as

Medvedenko; baritone **Lucas Meachem** as Constantine; and bass-baritones **Joshua Bloom** as Sorin and **Ricardo Herrera** as Boris Trigorin.

The Seagull premiered in Houston (1974) starring **Frederica von Stade**. For this 30th anniversary production, the Opera Center is performing a completely revised version with a new orchestra by the composer. "I selected *The Seagull* because its dramatic source provides a wonderful, challenging springboard for in-depth role study and acting," said Opera Center Director **Sheri Greenawald**. "Thomas Pasatieri is a composer I know very well, and *The Seagull* was premiered in 1974 by singers with whom I have performed, so I feel an affinity for this work because of its origins."

Sung in English, performances of *The Seagull* are scheduled for April 23, 25, 30 and May 2. Each performance will feature a lecture by the composer one hour prior to the curtain. ▼



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Chris Cooper knows how to play daddy

San Francisco International Film Fest hosts tribute to actor

by David Lamble

In April 21, the San Francisco International Film Festival hosts a tribute to actor Chris Cooper, including a 7:30 p.m. onstage interview at the Castro Theatre, followed by a screening of his first featured screen role, as the doomed union organizer in John Sayles' *Matewan*.

In the family satire *American Beauty*, Cooper as a retired Marine Corps colonel confronts his handsome teenage son with the evidence of a crime. The son has broken into his father's study and disturbed a treasured keepsake, a Nazi swastika-emblazoned china dinner-plate.

The colonel knocks his son to the floor, drawing blood.

"Fight back, you little pussy."

"No sir, I won't fight you."

Readers of *Honcho* doubtless watched with glee and stunned silence as one of their favorite "daddy/son" fantasies was played as "straight" drama. That the scene was not laugh-out-loud funny to most mainstream filmgoers is a tribute to the actors, particularly the man challenged with breathing life into one of Hollywood's hoariest clichés: the repressed homosexual, whose tortured secret justifies an out-break of shocking violence just in time for a film's third-act curtain.

Cooper has played both sides of the stern-daddy-and-sensitive-son conundrum. In the coming-of-age drama *October Sky*, Cooper's mine-foreman father is the chief barrier to his son's hopes to trade coal country for a job as a rocket scientist. Cooper told *The Calgary Sun* that his understanding of such tough daddies, who would crack before yielding to their son's dreams or displaying their repressed love, stems from his having grown up a rancher's son in Missouri. Cooper's father was extremely upset to learn his rebellious son yearned to be an actor. Shortly before he died, his

father would confess his pride in Cooper's screen debut in *Matewan*.

"I liked the story [in *October Sky*], but I had concerns that it was a bit soft on the father/son relationship," Cooper told *The Sun*. "I had to get assurance that I could play him as strong and as hard as I remembered my father being, and most fathers of that generation."

In Sayles' *Lone Star*, Cooper plays a South Texas lawman who spends the entire film figuring out if his own tough-as-nails sheriff father was a murderer and a bigot, or just a unreconstructed

product of frontier values. Cooper gets to unload his feelings in a steamy love scene with a high school sweethearts who, in a Chinatown-like plot twist, turns out to be his half-sister.

Cooper told *The Sun* that his psychotic, closeted colonel in *American Beauty* is a kind of joke on Hollywood's take on his flinty exterior. "I don't know why I always get cast as a guy who is emotionally restrained. Maybe because I'm from the Midwest. But I like to let go sometimes. You play too many characters who keep to themselves, and people will start to worry." ▼



Cooper's film persona: tough as nails.

SF Film Festival

◀ Arts cover

for lip gloss. Desperate to lift his family out of grinding rural poverty and liberate the girl within, Nong Toom stumbles upon his fistic prowess accidentally while witnessing his brother fail a boxing tryout. Real-life boxer and first-time actor Asanee Suwan suspends our disbelief about a young man, demurely shy and too modest to be naked with his fellow boxers, who nevertheless deviates his opponents with an acrobatic flurry of kicks and upper-cuts.

Director Ekachai Uekronthamam modulates the operatic excesses inherent in the material to de-

liver a convincing portrait of a man driven to pursue his sex change against all odds, combined with the aesthetic beauty and grace of this most brutal of sports. Nong Toom is increasingly torn between avoiding being viewed as a freak when his handlers aggressively promote him as a transvestite "Raging Pussy" and initiating the female hormone treatments that will weaken him as a fighter. A haunting scene unfolds in a gorgeously photographed slow-motion, dance-like fight with a handsome but treacherous opponent he loves outside the ring. (Cas, 4/18)

Festival Express Once dubbed *The Million-Dollar Bash*, this long-buried footage shows the great party that broke out when a couple of brash promoters chartered a train to carry the era's hottest acts — Janis Joplin, The Band and The Grateful Dead — across Canada. It was early July, 1970, and music fans of an anarchist bent objected to paying \$14 for a two-day concert with 20 bands, exclaiming that music should be free, an ironic prelude to today's battles over downloading. This led to a head-bashing melee with police as the tour train departed Toronto. In a new interview, promoter Ken Walker relishes the memory of punching out a local official who demanded that Winnipeg kids not pay.

Director Bob Smeaton has shaped 90 hours of raw footage into a home-movie peek at rock's royalty drinking, toking and jamming together. A disheveled musician boasts of going a week without sleeping or bathing. When the booze runs low, Walker stops at a trackside liquor store in Saskatoon to refuel. A bemused

musician recalls avoiding the vat of Canadian Club with LSD tabs floating inside. Joplin's nakedly needy blues ballads are a haunting capper to rock's greatest lost weekend, climaxing with a happily stoned Janis, two months from a smack OD, partying with her desperado Big Brother band members. (Cas, 4/17)



Photos courtesy of SF Int'l. Film Festival

MGM swan song *Silk Stockings*

out-take-like pleasures from better Jarmusch. At worst, it feels like cutting-room droppings from Woody Allen's *Celebrity*. A last-minute intervention by Bill Murray brings the proceedings to an entertaining wrap, although he's been funnier on ESPN's baseball broadcasts. (Cas, 4/15)



A scene from *Goodbye, Dragon Inn*

Silk Stockings The Cyd Charisse tribute brings the rare Castro screening of this swan song to the MGM big-budget musical. The story is borrowed from the classic comedy *Billy Wilder, Charles Brackett and Walter Reisch concocted for Ernst Lubitsch in *Ninotchka*: a Soviet Commissar discovers the erotic perils of capitalism while falling for a Paris playboy. The shocking sight of a pudgy Peter Lorre is more than offset by Charisse and Astaire's last dance. (Cas, 4/16)*

The General

Remember the cute boys in Bertolucci's *The Dreamers* fighting over the merits of Chaplin versus Keaton? *The General* is probably the best argument for the Keaton side. Buster plays a Confederate locomotive engineer whose train is stolen by Union Army guerrillas. This is one to see at the Castro (built 5 years before this classic was shot in the Oregon countryside) with a fresh music score performed live by the Alloy Orchestra. Roger Ebert, putting *The General* on his Top 100 films list, notes that Keaton was a one-man special-effects team, "in an age when a 'stunt' often meant actually doing on the screen what you appeared to be doing." (Cas, 4/20)

Vibrator

A bratty young female hitchhiker gets in the cab of a punky bottle-blond truck-driver, and yes, they get it on, repeatedly, while getting to know each other. As titles such as *Sadistic City* and *I am an S&M Writer* indicate, director Ryuchi Hiroki understands how to handle graphic sex on screen, but his film really shines with its gossipy truck-cab chatter between strangers, as the rarely-seen snowy landscape of Northern Japan flies by. (Kab, 4/16, 17; PFA, 4/19)

Control Room Behind-the-scenes of Donald Rumsfeld's least favorite cable network, the Arab-run Al Jazeera, is the subject of this smart documentary. A senior Arab-born news producer, after touting his channel's company line, suddenly confesses a secret ambition to send his children to

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'Folk' between covers

by David Nahmod

Queer as Folk - the Book by Paul Ruditis; Pocket Books, \$20

With many TV shows, success breeds merchandising. *Queer as Folk*, currently Showtime's top-rated series, continues this grand tradition. With QAF's first three seasons "out" on DVD, and with Season Four getting underway, *Queer-a-holics* can now enjoy *Queer as Folk - The Book*.

Paul Ruditis' large-sized paperback, endorsed by Showtime and QAF producers, is a superb look

inside this queer TV classic. On the surface it appears to be a coffee-table picture book. Look closer.

Ruditis did his homework. There are extensive interviews with QAF creators/producers Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman, who are partners in business and in life. All cast members, past and present, are profiled, with insightful interviews on how they developed their characters.

The reader is given an historical background on the genesis of the show, and of the uphill battle the producers faced in getting such a daring project off the ground. Many actors would not read for the parts, out of fear. But

then along came Sharon Gless (Debbie). The former *Cagney & Lacey* star approached the producers, saying she felt that QAF was something she needed to be a part of. No other actress was ever considered for the role of Debbie. They had a name star, and everything fell into place.

Fascinating tidbits abound. Did anyone know that the character of Uncle Vic had been inspired in part by the character played by Aidan Quinn in the 1985 AIDS-themed TV-movie *An Early Frost*? That, too, was a Cowen/Lipman production. Uncle Vic was developed on the assumption that Quinn's *Early Frost* character did

not die. Vic is what his life might have been like after 20 years of living with AIDS.

It's revealing subtext like this that will add many layers of enjoyment to your QAF viewing. Or, if you just want to kill time, you can look at the pictures! The plentiful stills and behind-the-scenes shots are fascinating unto themselves. ▼

Queer as Folk

◀ Arts cover

up where it left off, and present another 14 episodes. The cliffhangers are resolved fairly quickly, and, as the stories progress, we see that the show has indeed come of age, as the ads proclaim.

"Most people who have political issues with the show aren't actually watching the show," says actor Peter Paige, who plays Emmett. "They're watching the hype."

When the show premiered amid a flurry of publicity several years ago, its graphic sex scenes were the talk of the industry. The first encounter between Brian (Gale Harold) and Justin (Randy Harrison) was intense, erotic, shocking stuff for TV — and yes, a major turn-on! The show became known for its graphic sexuality and music-video-style editing. What was rarely talked about was the simple fact that in-between all the nude scenes and swirling camerawork were the day-to-day stories of gay and lesbian lives, something we never had before.

For decades, housewives have been able to see the entire life spans of specific characters, like *All My Children's* Erica Kane, play out before them. While *All My Children*

has had the courage to incorporate likable, long-running gay and lesbian characters into its stories, *Queer as Folk* went much further. AMC's Bianca, sweet girl that she is, finally had her first onscreen kiss after two-and-a-half years on the air. Only QAF had the guts to show gay characters having unapologetic sex in their first scenes.

QAF was history unfolding before our eyes. With Season Four, the show is still about sex, but now it's about much more. The sex scenes are still in evidence, and they're still quite hot, but there are fewer of them. Instead, QAF is now focusing more on drama, and on the growth of the characters we love. This is an important step forward in the history of gay television.

The show's characters do show tremendous growth this year. Brian, in need of employment, opens his own business. Brian is less afraid to show his softer side. Gay-bashing victim Justin is angry and fighting back — the sweet young thing of several seasons ago is long gone. Man-child Michael is now a responsible foster parent with Ben. The two have forged a lovely relationship based on mutual admiration and trust. Ted is in rehab, where he meets former lover Blake. With Blake's help, he fights valiantly to get his life back.

Queer as Folk even pays tribute to the late gay leader Harry Hay

this year. In a particularly lovely episode, Emmett and Michael become Radical Faeries.

The women of Liberty Avenue, Debbie, Melanie and Lindsay, continue to be the group's stabilizing forces. Melanie is now pregnant with the child she'll co-parent with Michael. The women's first child, Gus, is growing up.

The very likable Daphne continues to be nothing more than a glorified extra. Come on, *Folks!* She's Justin's best friend, not a piece of furniture. Let her be a part of the story already!

One shock is in store for the audience: A major character dies! Who will it be? To find out the answer to this question and more, tune in to the premiere of *Queer as Folk's* Season Four, this Sunday, April 18, 10 p.m. on Showtime cable channel. ▼



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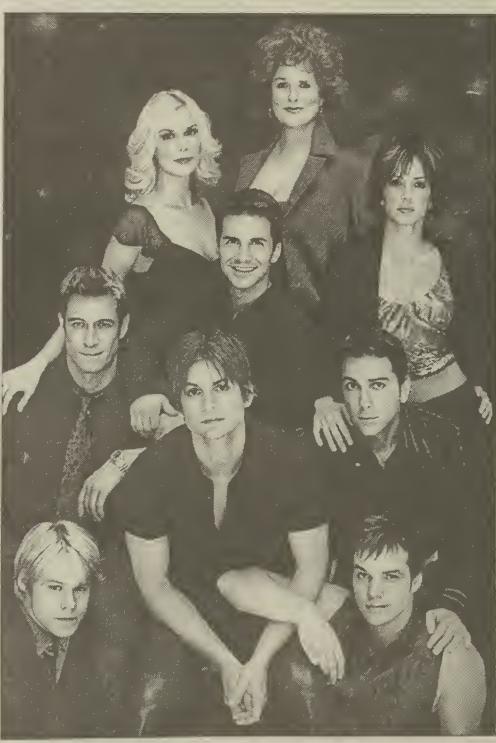
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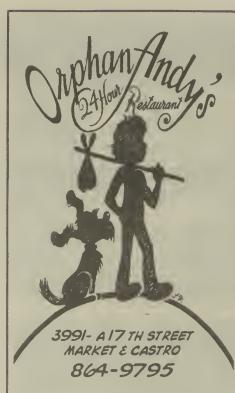
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American cry

Thomas Adès' 'Prophecy' out on CD

by Tim Pfaff

I thought it was a joke when my review copy of Thomas Adès' *America: A Prophecy* (EMI) arrived with a warning sticker on its already foreboding cover. The lower right-hand corner was emblazoned with *Parental Advisory/Explicit Content*, marking a new turn in the inexplicable road down which the classical musical industry stumbles.

Being current on my Richard Clarke and Paul Krugman, I thought the danger might be that if John Ashcroft caught you with a copy, you were off to Guantanamo Bay. Naturally, it's all more banal than that. The title composition of this astounding collection of 10 works by the 32-

year-old gay composer contains the word "fuck," and his setting of "Life Story," to a text by (gasp) Tennessee Williams, limns the dynamics of a sexual trick (albeit, as sung by soprano Claron McFadden, evidently a heterosexual one) that ends with a simple moral: passing out with a lit cigarette in your mouth can cause death.

The vice police are still winning, folks.

Big Brother is right about one thing: this is adult music. Adès' baleful "Prophecy" has the austere thrust of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* and the raw nerve to have been truly prophetic. Adès—who, in *Powder Her Face*, provided the opera world with its first on-stage blow-job—wrote this evocation of a foreign power taking over a wasted land and people while the "America" he was contemplating was still obsessed with even more high-profile blow-jobs, and governments they could bring down.

Written on a commission from the New York Philharmonic, *America: A Prophecy* had its premiere exactly 22 months before 9/11. Of course, it's more understandable now. Adès set texts (his own adaptations of oracular sayings from the Mayan jaguar seers, for mezzo-soprano; and Spanish and Latin texts from Mateo

Flecha's *La Guerra*, for the chorus) that date back half a millennium, to the Spanish conquest of the Maya. Today, they come in on an eerily familiar wave-length.

A solo voice (Susan Bickley) warns her people, "weak from fuck and drink," of invaders on the march. "Your trees will be scalded/ They will rule from the backs of your fallen." As rendered by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus with Adès conducting, it makes your run backwards.

Chameleon prow

A composer less astute and technically accomplished than Adès could make a cloying mess of the same material. Adès' unerring orchestration, as adept at the incisive solo as it is at the smattering blast of orchestral color (and continually prowl, chameleon-like, between them) and his genius for the telling gesture give it relentless power.

Music doesn't get any "newer" than Adès, yet his doesn't have to sneak up on you, or you on it. It's truly dangerous music in the hands of one who knows its power and uses it pointedly but with conscience. The occasional, inevitable overtones of gay old Benjamin Britten fit.

The CD's only other work for full orchestra (the CBSO, again under Adès) is recent, "Brahms," Op. 21, from 2001. Adès' setting of a poem by pianist Alfred Brendel, as sung here by baritone Christopher Maltman, is sonically more redolent of Berg than Brahms, not to its detriment. In its scrappy five-plus minutes, Adès takes on the musical culture of which he is the latest *Wunderkind*, one that enjoys eating its young.



It would miss the point to claim that a talent as extravagant as Adès' is selfless. Still, the ongoing wonder of his work—in vibrant, profuse display throughout this CD—is his uncanny knack for finding, with cartographic precision, the voice of the piece he is composing, rather than composing music to find his voice.

The wild amalgam of musical styles displayed here never veers into mere ventriloquism. The true jazziness of "Life Story," for string bass, two bass clarinets and singer in the late Billie Holiday style, cuts deep as it slinks along. The English lute song mates unnaturally with ancient Latin texts in "The Lover in Winter" (songs for countertenor Robin Blaze and pianist Huw Watkins), arousing more unsettling than soothing emotions. But Adès is a hoot, too, seldom more so than in his wacky transcription of François Couperin's "Les Baracades misterieuses" for the Composer's Ensemble.

Although the CD oozes talent from every track, what lingers in the memory is the choral writing, among the day's finest. In four minutes, "The Fayrfax Carol," with its harmonies scraping across otherwise mellifluous lines, says more about the human dimensions of the Passion of the Christ than, well, you know.

The CD will soothe Adès fanatics who couldn't attend the premiere of his new opera, *The Tempest*, at Covent Garden in February. EMI, now bring on the storm! ▶

We are the world

by Jason Serinus

HipHopKhasene - Solomon & Socalled (*Piranha*) Klezmer, which literally means "vessel of song," denotes a class of celebratory Jewish dance music played at weddings, parties or festivals. Solomon & Socalled catapult klezmer into the 21st century with spirit-soaring results.



HipHopKhasene hit No. 8 on the European world-music charts last summer, and for good reason. In an age when most traditional musical forms are routinely watered down and homogenized, it is a delight to discover young artists taking a fresh look at a centuries-old genre.

Socalled, now 27, is a self-described Canadian "magician, cartoonist, pianist, photographer, animator, DJ and beat-writer" who creates a surreal mix of early 20th-century Jewish recordings, hip-

hop English and postmodern Yiddishisms that literally refurbishes the klezmer medium. In addition to beats, loops and samples, he provides accordion, fender Rhodes, glockenspiel, Hammond organ, piano, pianorgan and Wurlitzer.

Sophie Solomon, a klezmer violinist and "raga jungle DJ," is a founding member of London's Oi-Va-Voi, a band of klezmer breakbeat fusionists that was nominated for a BBC World Music Award. Add in such respected artists as the endlessly inventive clarinetist David Krakauer, multitalented instrumentalist and scholar Michael Alpert, and the mother-daughter drum/trumpet combo of Elaine and Susan Hoffman-Watts, and you've got a mind-blowing experience.

Sacred Tibetan Chant - The Monks of Sherab Ling Monastery (*Naxos World*) When I first began to play this disc of centuries-old Tibetan Buddhist chant by monks praying in the pine-forested foothills of Northern India's Kangra Valley, I naively thought I could use it as background music. Forget it. These chants are too powerful. The reason this disc won the 2004 Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music Album is simple: It's the real thing.

The CD contains two extend-

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FILM

Meet 'Connie' artist Nia Vardalos

Women impersonate drag queens in 'Connie and Carla'

by Gregg Shapiro

In the tradition of the contemporary American movie comedy, which includes her own 2002 breakout hit *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, actress and writer Nia Vardalos has created *Connie and Carla*, a laugh-filled romp which borrows from some of the best. After Connie (Vardalos) and Carla (Toni Collette), a pair of struggling Chicago lounge singers, witness a murder, they hightail it out of town (see *Some Like It Hot*). They seek refuge in West Hollywood, where they go into hiding as female impersonators (see *Victor/Victoria*). All sorts of complications arise, including when Connie falls in love with Jeff (David Duchovny), the brother of Robert (Stephen Spinella), one of the drag performers, who thinks she is really a guy (*Yentl*). I recently spoke with Vardalos about her new movie.

Gregg Shapiro: I've been describing *Connie and Carla* as equal parts *Some Like It Hot* and *Victor/Victoria*, with a little bit of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and *Yentl* thrown in for good measure. Does that sound accurate to you?

Nia Vardalos: I actually think there are a lot of films like this. There's *Tootsie*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Sister Act*, *Victor/Victoria*. If we could slide easily into that genre with those fantastic films, I would be honored. It's an original screenplay, but I don't want to pretend that I invented the idea.

World music

◀ previous page

ed prayer-ceremonies. Monks and nuns of the Karma Kagyu lineage perform the Mahamudra Lineage Prayer & Meditation each morning. The chants pay respect to the lineage of accomplished Kagyu meditation masters, recognizing practitioners dating from the 7th century to the present day. In the evening, the monks perform the Mahakala Puja ceremony, consisting of an invocation and offering to Mahakala, the receiving of blessings, and a dedication to world peace and harmony.



In addition to the sometimes gravel-deep voices of four Senior Chanting Masters and five other male Chanting Masters, we hear an assortment of traditional instruments regularly played at the monastery. These include the Nga Chin, a massive temple-drum played with two padded drumsticks; the Gyaling, similar to the oboe, but played with circular breathing technique; the Radung, an extremely long, valveless horn that also requires circular breathing for extended notes; the Kungling, a valveless trumpet; and the Sil-Nyen and Rol-Mo, flat cymbals.



Connie (Nia Vardalos) and Carla (Toni Collette) go into hiding as persuasive West Hollywood female impersonators in *Connie and Carla*.

because everybody has been exploring cross-dressing since Shakespeare.

You and Toni Collette convincingly portray lounge singers. Is there anything like that on your résumé?

Uh-huh, it was called *Broadway Tonite!* It was me and two guys. I was 220 lbs., and I had Pat Benatar hair. We sang 65 songs and tap-danced. It had a thinly veiled storyline, the three of us were all auditioning. We went from "No, No Nanette" to "Suddenly, Seymour." One time I was singing from *Cabaret*, "Maybe this time, I'll be lucky," and I turn to this guy in the audience, and he's

asleep. I think my face fell, and the whole audience looked at me like, "Oh!"

I wrote *Connie* after I wrote *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, but before *Wedding* was made. To actually get the chance to make this movie and to sing, it's like I'm living in another universe. To get to work with Toni Collette and David Duchovny, and to get to sing all of those songs, was ridiculous!

I admire that guy William Hung, from *American Idol*. That's my thing: sing to express, not to impress.

You got to kiss David Duchovny a couple of times.

Am I the luckiest girl in the world? But I would like to apologize to your readers for not writing a scene where David takes off all his clothes.

You cast Alec Mapa and Stephen Spinella, two gay actors, as gay men.

Yes. *The Birdcage* is a great movie, but we all know Robin Williams is not gay. We thought, let's do something different. We wanted to bring authenticity to the roles. It was challenging for all of us to do drag. The only one of us who had ever done it was Robert Kaiser, who plays Paul. To have this gaggle of gay men be our Greek chorus was just so much fun. They were the grand arbiters of taste. You have not lived until you've had four gay men go through your purse and go, "Honey, you cannot keep your vi-

tas in this plastic bag. Go to Prada and buy a case."

Alec's character Lee (aka N'Cream) speaks with a thick Filipino accent. Do you have a fascination with accents?

Yes, I have a theory that anything said with an accent is funny. When we cast Alec, I made his part bigger. Every time he spoke, I was dying.

The film also has a serious message about female body image.

Yes, body image in general. I think we've all got this sickness running through us lately. When all my dreams were coming true with *Wedding*, three of my friends, in a six-month period, lost their lives. Their bodies gave out. We all want to be slimmer, and we all want to look great in non-pleated pants. But, my God, we must worship our bodies, they're the only ones we have. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 16

Out/Rage: 'Melting the Wall' @ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents the second performance of "Melting the Wall," by AIRspace artists-in-residence Out/Rage, a multi-disciplinary performance collective of gay and bisexual men, of diverse nationalities and ethnicities, engaging in theatrical dialogue and artistic inquiry into issues of race and racism within the gay male community. Theatre, as the primary mode of public expression for Out/Rage, offers the ability to incorporate members' personal experiences as actors, dancers, poets, singers, scholars and other artistic expressions to reach out to audiences within an accepted space of dialogue, risk-taking, and truth sharing. Featuring: John Antoniades, Ramon Balsamo, Jason Hancock, Ruven Hannah, Weihau Lau, Paul Loper, Antoine Moore, James Smith, and Nels Teunis, ten gay/bisexual men. This work-in-progress performance will be followed by a post-performance discussion allowing the audience and artist to speak directly with one another. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Tix/info/wheelchair access: 415-554-0402.

'Flaming Iguanas'
@ Theatre Rhinoceros



'Fela: Amen, Amen, Amen,'
2002, oil and variegated leaf on canvas by Barkley Hendricks, part of *Black President: The Art and Legacy of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti* at YBCA. See Friday.

Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Flaming Iguanas*, a world premiere play based on the novel by Erika Lopez, adapted & directed by John Fisher & Duka Knezevic. In Flaming

Iguanas, the ultimate sea-to-shining-sea all-girl adventure, we follow the exploits of Tomato Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican, New Jersey girl riding her motorcycle across the country in search of good sex, and learning first hand what it takes to be bi-coastal, bisexual, and a biker. In this unique Road Trip production, the action of the play will take place in various spaces in and around the building that is home to Theatre Rhinoceros. \$15-\$25. 8pm. Thru April 24. Showtimes: Wed.-Sat. @ 8pm; Sun. Eves @ 7pm; Sun. Mats @ 3pm (April 18). The Rhino, 2926 16th St. (Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861-5079; therhino.org

'Black President' & Joseph Grigely @ YBCA

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in association with the Museum of the African Diaspora invites you to an Opening Night Party in celebration of *Black President: The Art and Legacy of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti* and *Joseph Grigely: Ten Years of Conversations*. Featuring music by DJ Paul Heek from Red Hot + RIOT, heavy Afro-beat by Albinol, with members of Fela Kuti, Spearhead, Sonny Okosun, Hamsa Lila, Will Bernard & Motherbird and more! The biographical documentary of the life of Fela Kuti, *Fela Kuti: Music is the Weapon*, will be screened in the YBCA Screening Room. Going on view in our Galleries is *Black President: The Art and Legacy of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti*, a multimedia exhibition that explores the influence and artistic legacy of the legendary Nigerian Afro-beat musician and activist who died of an AIDS-related illness in 1997, and Joseph Grigely: Ten Years of Conversations, a survey of Grigely's conversation pieces, audio works and sculptural projects from the past ten years in addition to a newly commissioned video by the acclaimed artist. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door, free for YBCA Members. 8-11pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Galleries & Forum, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 415-978-ARTS (2787), www.yerbabuenaarts.org.

'Dykes on Mykes'

@ Club Savoy, Santa Clara
"Dykes On Mykes-Womens Music Showcase" (honorary dykes welcome). Come enjoy sweet lavender music by red-hot performers while supporting local Women's Music. Three or more amazing performances by up and coming female musicians every 3rd Friday of the month. Tasty drink specials and DJ dancing after the performance as well...so come on out for some great music, dancing, and good company. Well worth the short drive from other areas! Tonight: music showcase with Alix Dobkin, Lila Hayle, and Kat Downs with a special performance by Retta Scazuilla aka Franklin Sinatra. This is an 18+ only venue, but all are welcome to attend. \$5-20 Sliding Scale. 8pm. Club Savoy, 3546 Flora Vista Ave. Santa Clara. Info: (408) 244-6909; www.clubssavoy.com

University Dance Theater @ Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies presents the much-anticipated annual University Dance Theater Choreography Showcase (April 16-25) of the UC Berkeley Dance Program, Directed by Marni Thomas. PROGRAM A (April 16, 8pm; April 17, 2pm — free show; April 24, 8pm; & April 25, 2pm): Haereticus by Ellis Wood; Shifting Sand by Christopher Dolder & Anne Westwick; One Fine Mourning by Christopher Dolder (World Premiere); and Home by Carol Murato (World Premiere). PROGRAM B (April 17, 8pm; April 18, 7pm; April 23, 8pm; & April 24, 2pm): Hither Thither by Janice Garrett; Treading by Christopher Dolder; The Golden Harp: A Fairy Tale by Christopher Dolder; and Working Order by Marni Thomas. \$14 general admission; \$10 UC faculty/staff; \$8 students/seniors. Tix: TicketWeb, toll-free at (866) 468-3399 or online at www.ticketweb.com (search for UC Berkeley). Tickets may be purchased in-person at the Zellerbach Playhouse box office on Fridays from 1pm to 4pm. The box office also opens one hour prior to each performance. Info: 510-642-9925; theater.berkeley.edu

'Company'

@ Student Center, UCB

Company, A Musical Comedy, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Choreographed by James Graham. Plays Friday, April 16 at 8pm; Saturday, April 17 at 2pm (free) and 8pm; Friday, April 23 at 8pm; Saturday, April 24 at 2 and 8pm; Sunday, April 25 at 4pm. \$10 General Admission; \$8 Students. Choral Rehearsal Hall, in the lower level of Cesar Chavez Student Center on the UC Berkeley Campus.

Sat 17

'River Bingo' @ Russian River

Join Sister Betty and Sister Dana for "The Great Russian River Bingo Bus Adventure 2.0," a day of fun, sun and bingo at the Russian River! At noon today their luxury bus will take 47 lucky players on a round-trip journey to the Russian River. Comfortable, plush chairs cushion your bottom as the air-conditioned and bathroom equipped motor coach whisks you to the river. Arrive at the Russian River in the early afternoon with plenty of time for sunning by the pool, canoeing on the river, hiking, or playing in downtown Guerneville. At 7pm your bus ticket entitles you to VIP treatment at the Russian River Sisters' Bingo! If you like "Ba-da-Bing," you will scream with delight at "River Bingo!" Big cash prizes, entertainment and the ever-lovely River Sisters! Every bus passenger will receive reserved seating, one set of ultra-lucky bingo cards, and VIP treatment! You'll have time to enjoy Guerneville's night life before the bus returns to SF. Bus departs at 12:00 noon sharp (1500 Eureka Street in the Castro). Bus passengers are welcome to bring luggage, coolers, food and drink. Your ticket includes round-trip transportation and VIP admission to Russian River Bingo. Tix/info: www.SisterBetty.org; www.BaDaBingo.org

Poetry Center's 50th Anniversary @ Unitarian Center

Poetry Center's 50/50 Year Anniversary Poetry Forum: A multi-stage poetry extravaganza, in celebration of the Poetry Center's 50th anniversary [1954-2004]. A day-long, one-time only poetry carnival & birthday bash with outstanding poets from across the poetic spectrum. 4-6 pm: Free afternoon youth program with workshops and readings by young poets working with California Poets in the Schools, San Francisco School of the Arts, & WritersCorps. 7-10 pm: Full evening festival taking place simultaneously on five stages. On the MAIN STAGE: Diane di Prima, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Jack Hirschman, Wanda Coleman, Eileen Myles, David Meltzer, Al Robles, James Schwab, Cecile Pineda, devorah major. Plus, young poets from WritersCorps, School of the Arts, and CPTPS, along with rare taped voices from the Poetry Center's 50-year American Poetry Archives. In the STARR KING ROOM: City Lights Books helps celebrate Pablo Neruda's 100th Anniversary with readings (Spanish & English) and premier screening from Pablo Neruda's *Presente!* On stage: Juvenal Acosta, Carlos Baron, Jack Hirschman, Stephen Kessler, Mark Eisner and more. BASEMENT STAGE, SFUSD students and alumni offer a "subversive" night of poetry & performance inspired by Jack Spicer's "Magic Workshop." Featured poet-performers: Benjamin Hollander, Sarah Mangold, Brandon Brown, Kelly Holt, Rebekah Anderson, Megan Pruitt, Giancarlo Campagna. CHAPEI: Poetry & Jazz with house band: Jimmy Bialy: drums, Lewis Jordan: saxophones, Leon Lee: flute, John-Carlos Perez: electric bass, Negmedin Shahen: percussion, plus special guests sitting in, directed by Matthew Shenoda (poet & SFUSD American Indian Studies scholar). In the MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM: Two back-to-back sets of poetry presented by premier SF Asian American arts-org Kearney Street Workshop (Pireeni Sundaralingam, Shailja Patel, Dennis Sumera, & KSW co-founder Al Robles) and by SFSU's Vietnamese American Studies Center (Andrew Lam, Lan Tran, Truong Tran, & VASC director Isabelle Thuy Pelaudi). Plus: music, books, tapes, raffled prizes, food & drinks! (ID required for beer & wine). \$10 student or senior (w/d.) \$12 general (\$15 at the door). 4-6 pm afternoon youth festival (free); 7-10pm multi-stage evening festival. The Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). Tix: toll-free 1-866-468-3399; www.ticketweb.com. Info: www.sfsu.edu/~poetry/festival.html

'Pay to Play'

@ New Langton Arts

Special event: "Pay to Play," an evening of wry installation and vicarious thrills by multidisciplinary artist Patrick Rock and Ian Treasure. Rock's installation the American Flag Beer Vending Machine, stocked with patriotically-packaged beer, is accompanied by a musician-less band of Flying V guitars, creating a small-scale spectacle of virtual patriotism. Treasure's snapshot project *Maldivian Evenings* offers a virtual holiday: scenic vacation memories without the hassle of actual travel. Polaroids available for \$5, and beer for \$1 a can. \$5-\$10 gen'l admission (\$5 members/students/seniors). 8-11pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: 626-5416; newlangtonarts.org

'Not A Genuine Black Man' @ The Marsh

Opening night/champagne reception: Come-dian, radio host, editorialist Brian Copeland performs "Not A Genuine Black Man," a dramatic solo performance about laughter, tears and sociology, based on a recent five part series of essays published in the San Leandro Times about growing up as one of a few black children in San Leandro. Directed by Dave Ford. \$15-\$22. 8pm. Thru May 15 (Thu-Sun). The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. Tix: 415-641-0235.

Famous Burlesque Revue @ 12 Galaxies

San Francisco's Original Famous Burlesque Revue returns. Come see the original, sexy, wild and zany spectacle starring those sultry sirens of burlesque, The Lollies, bloomed out of the magnificent manifold of The City's enchanting nocturne. Provoked by the brassy bombastic swagger of SF's Famous Burlesque Orchestra, the Revue features some of the top burlesque and cabaret acts, including the frisky frolics of singer Kittens on the Keys, solos by Rox Shocks, Margot Montmartre, the devastating Roky Roulette, plus emcee Mad V. Dog, amazing special guests and more! DJ Delachaux spins splashy dance tunes after the show. Advanced Tickets \$12; tickets at door \$15. 9pm. 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd). Tix/info: VIP.com; 12galaxies.com; sfburlesque.com; therollies.net; suzanneramsey.net

'Karma' @ El Rio

"Karma" a Multicultural Queer and Trans Cabaret. Go-Go Dancers, Drummers, DJ's, Dancing, Decor, and performances by SF Drag Kings Rusty Hips, The Momma's Boyz, and Jay Walker, Super Sexxy Bands: Chi Chi Palace, and Sistas in the Pit! Songstress: Barbara Heredia. Sexxy striptease by Simone De La Getto. Bellydancing by the insatiable, exotic, Ultra Gypsies! DJ Kinetic on the wheels of steel. Hosted by SF Faun Queen Stiletto (pump if you're nasty). Food provided by Niman Ranch and Veritable Vegetable and is prepared on El Rio's new grill! \$10 cover. Doors at 3, show at 4-8:30pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission St (at Precita). Info: 415-282-3325; elrios.com

'Thrive' @ The LBGT Center

"Thrive," a group of guys, gay HIV+, breaking the isolation of HIV+ and not only surviving the disease, but thriving in spite of it. Donation suggested. 1-3pm. The LGBT Center, 1800 Market (at Octavia), Third Floor. For more information and other events, join Thrive's email list: thriving-subscribe@yahoo.com

Dharma

@ Hartford St. Zen Center Hartford St. Zen Center in the heart of the Castro presents a weekly dharma talk on Saturdays at 10am, followed by discussion and a social hour. People new to the Soto Zen tradition are welcome to join for a morning of insight and community. Located at 57 Hartford St. (btwn 17th & 18th). Info: 415-863-2507; HartfordStreetZen.com.

SF Hiking Club

@ Henry Coe State Park Join other outdoor lovers for a Henry Coe State Park Hike. Ascend the Blue Ridge and Mount Sizer, cruise the crest, descend to Coyote Creek, pass China Hole, with a climb back to the starting point. A strenuous 18-mile hike with a 4,300-ft. elevation gain. Meet 7:45am under the large SafeWay sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Strange de Jim @ Magnet

A Different Light Bookstore presents are reading & booksigning by Strange de Jim whose new photo history San Francisco's Castro offers a fascinating pictorial look at the development of our gay mecca from its humble roots. Free. 7 p.m. Magnet, 4122 18th St. Info: 415-431-0891.

Garden Conservancy Open Day, Atherton

The Garden Conservancy's Open Days program, offering views of 33 private gardens in the greater SF region, kicks off its 2004 season today with a tour of The Larry & Susy Calof Garden in Atherton. At the Calof Garden, particular attention is paid to foliage color and texture. The garden is filled with unexpected nooks, a lovely pool, the raised orchard of dwarf fruit trees, brick patios, stands of beautiful old redwoods, and benches that invite you to stay awhile and enjoy the beauty of the season. The Conservancy's new 2004 Open Days directory, West Edition, lists 164 private gardens in the west, including driving directions and descriptions of gardens written by their owners. Admission to each garden is \$5. 10am-4pm. Rain or shine. The Larry & Susy Calof Garden, 126 Stockbridge Ave., Atherton. Info: 1-888-824-2424

LGBT Elder Forum

@ Park 55 Hotel The American Society of Aging and the Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network invite you to a "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Elder Forum," a day-long opportunity for information sharing, community building and discussion. Learn about LGBT milestones in the field of aging; innovations in policy, programs and services, and ways to work together for a caring fu-

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Happy kids!

For hundreds of faux- and real children last Easter Sunday, the happiest place on Earth was among the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** in Dolores Park, where colorful decadence and playful irreverence brightened everyone's spirits, and true communion and harmony were experienced. In one of the cheeriest events ever held in the park (in my long experience), this latest Sisters celebration gathered momentum slowly but steadily, starting off low-key with a children's Easter-egg hunt and gradually absorbing the day's warm glow as droves of people showed up decked out in all manner of off-beat Easter regalia. By mid-afternoon the show/spectacle on stage was running all-out with charged-up energy; even when rolling fog chilled the proceedings, no one fled; hundreds remained packed close to the stage/runway, transfixed by the proceedings — including the hunky Jesus who dared bare flesh, in some cases down to what god gave 'em — and all over, throughout the crowd and up on stage, the realization went out that this event would be/will be remembered for decades as one of the signature outdoor happenings in San Francisco, akin to just about any historic rock concert you can name in Golden Gate Park.

Stand-out music performances came from Polkacide and Acid Housewife, the former getting a huge groove going with its klezmer-like bounce, the latter with wild, wacky wonderful drag, synchronized moves, devilishly delightful harmonies, and a strong connection with the audience, which pressed in to catch every move and inflection. The great DJ James Smith spun records for the show, keeping the party vibe going between and during acts, and in one case produced a stunning disco-mix of "The Lonely Goatherd" from the *Sound of Music*, and the gang on stage had the audience going wild. Also no one will soon forget Suppositori Spelling's spellbinding whatever it was.

In the Easter Bonnet Contest, obviously our fair city's queer denizens have taken the art to a new high, with elaborate get-ups defying description, some verging on the traditional with stuffed rabbits, fruit, nuts and whatnot piled up high, others veering into the Burning Man realm as with hunky Robo-Bunny (Greg Taylor's new squeeze), decked out in tubes and straps and buckles and looking like he could be the state's next Governor. The winner was, of course, the unlikeliest — a chocolate cake hat, ready to be eaten, and as soon as it came off stage the nuns were having at it!

As for the winning Hunky Jesus, let's just say Jesus Christ Circus Star could do a backflip into anyone's lap and make them feel they'd risen anew! His tattoos (which he'd bared all!) were quite lovely, as was his tight gymnast's physique. Other favorites were Palimony Jesus (a very pregnant Mother Mary, sweetly carrying the savior); Day-Glo Jesus, painted glowing green from toe to mop head; Palm Frond Jesus (or some such), young hunk who would grace any calendar and got my vote for sexiest dude, if least Jesus-like; then there was that odd little man — he was diminutive, and a bit of a curiosity with his Mohawk and diapers, to say the least — and what kind of Jesus he was pretending to be, I'm not sure, but people seemed to appreciate his balls; of course there was that woman who was in no way Jesus-like, but she wanted to bare her boobs, and was granted leeway by the Sisters in charge; as was the (almost obligatory) Naked Jesus, who was hunky enough, but his saintliness shriveled in the fog. Most traditional was a blood-splattered Jesus, the few dozen fake gashes on the would-be King of Kings caused nary a flinch. ▶

ture for LGBT elders. Free. 10am-4:15pm. 55 Cyril Magnin St. Info: Bill Kirkpatrick, New Leaf Outreach to Elders, 415-255-2937, ext 313. Registration: Rodney Jackson, 415-974-0300.

Lesbian/Gay Contra Dance @ Bethany United Methodist Church

Join the very first San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Contra Dance! Contra maestro Chris Ricciotti is coming from Boston to call and to help inaugurate this new dance series for lesbians, gay men and friends of all persuasions and descriptions. Contra dance is an exuberant, friendly New England barndance that blends English, Celtic and Quebecois traditions. Easy to learn — no fancy footwork, and each dance is taught from scratch and prompted by a caller as you do it. Zesty Celtic-style music by live band The Repercussions. A wonderful, low-pressure way to meet new people since each round of the dance brings you in contact with everyone else in the room. No partner or special attire required. \$10 (or pay what you can). Dance from 7:20-10pm. (Doors open at 7pm). At BUMC, 1268 Sanchez (@ Clipper). Info: Robert at 415-292-7857; sfcontra@hotmail.com.

'Cowgirls Round-Up' @ Metronome

'Cowgirls Round-Up,' a lesbian country western dance party. 7:30-8:15pm. Beginning & Intermediate Country Western 2-Step Lesson. 8:15-8:45pm Country Line Dancing Lesson. 8:45pm-11:30pm: Country Western Dance Party w/D.B.W. \$15 Lesson & Party, \$7 party only at 8:45 pm. At Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th Street (at DeHaro St.). Info: www.metronomeballroom.com

All are welcome to come and experience a night of exquisite discotheque music and lighting. A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit Under One Roof. \$10 adv; \$15 door. 6pm-2am. Glas Kat, 520 4th St. Tix/Info: 415-339-7807; www.remembertheparty.com



Pianist Peter Mintun plays a benefit for Community Music Center at the University Club. See Monday.

Mon 19

Peter Mintun/CMC Benefit @ University Club

Pianist Peter Mintun, who performed in San Francisco's leading hotels for a quarter of a century, returns to headline "A Salute to the Joy of Making Music," this year's annual fundraising event for Community Music Center (CMC), a SF-based nonprofit organization. Mintun relocated to New York in 1999 and has since performed in some of Manhattan's top hotels, as well as part of a concert series at Carnegie Hall. Tonight he will perform "an evening reminiscent of a night at L'Etoile," in honor of his many years performing at SF's Huntington Hotel. Community Music Center was founded in 1921 to make music accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. Last year, CMC provided quality, affordable music instruction to 2350 students and concerts to more than 11,000 people throughout the Bay Area. This year's Community Music Center fundraising event will take place at the University Club on Nob Hill. Bay Area television personality Terry Lowry will emcee the evening and host a live auction featuring vacations, fine wine and unique art. CMC student and faculty musical talent will also be showcased. Proceeds raised from the evening will benefit the CMC Scholarship Fund. \$150. Info/tix: 415-647-6015; www.sfmusic.org

Tue 20

Indie Press Spotlight @ Intersection

Intersection introduces "Independent Press Spotlight," focusing on local independent presses. Tonight: Seal Press (est. 1976) & Aunt Lute Books (est. 1982), publishing houses committed to publishing all forms and genres of literature by women across the globe. .. Features readers: Michelle Tea (The Beautiful; Valencia, etc.), Taigi Smith (anthologized in Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism and Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation, both from Seal Press), and Gina Kamani (Jungle Girl; Aunt Lute Books, 1995). \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia (btwn 15th/16th). Info: 415-626-2787; theintersection.org

Wed 21

'Smack Dab' @ Magnet

"Smack Dab," an open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts, making the Castro safe for performance again. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany; bring your charm and magic and cheerful can-do attitude, or just come and watch and cheer folks on. If you want, write (or sing) something about an experience with STD (just a suggestion, not a requirement). All ages and genders welcomed and adored. Features performers: Sherilyn Connolly and Roger Pinnell. Connolly is a writer/performer who moved to the Castro in 1999; she wouldn't have to be Fresno-based anymore. She's featured at K'vetch, Oral Fixation, Perverts Put Out! and Lit at the Canvas, among other gigs, and she runs the 21st century variant kabaret "Wicked Messenger." Theatrically, Sherilyn acted in Spanganga's stage productions of *Night of the Living Dead* and *The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, and directed a live-action *Twilight Zone* episode starring Lynn Breedlove, Seeley Quest and Jon Fast. Her chappbooks are available at Dog-Eared Books and Modern Times, both at 20th and Valencia. Roger Pinnell's fiction has appeared in *Bananafish*, *Holy Tick-clamps* and *The Y-Files*, with a story in the forthcoming issue of *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly*. Since August 2003, he's

been the man behind the *Truth is Fiction* writers-with-music series in San Francisco. In the late 1980s, he was the singer and driving force behind Piglatin, a band whose music, *Deadbeat magazine* wrote, "cross-bred B-movie jazz with the ambience of a car wreck." Free., 7:30 Sign-Up, show starts at 8pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: Kirk Read at kirkread@earthlink.net; www.magnets.org

'Radar Reading' @ Main Library

Michelle Tea hosts "Radar Reading," a night of queer literature by Margo Perrin, Cooper Lee Bombarier, and Sparrow 13 Laughingwad. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

'A Day in the Hype of America'

@ Red Vic Movie House

Global Griot Productions will screen their award-winning documentary, *A Day in the Hype of America*, at The Red Vic Movie House, as part of "believe FREEDOM — The American Hype Campaign." Filmed entirely on December 31, 1999, *A Day in the Hype of America* offers a savvy critique of the hype and hysteria that made the arrival of the millennium such an anticlimax. Focusing on four Americans' experiences, the film is set against the noise of the media circus and the drama of the dreaded hour of midnight. Screenings and discussions will take place at The Red Vic Movie House, 1727 Haight Street, on Wednesday, April 23 at 2pm, 7pm and 9:30pm. Co-director T.J. Martin will attend. Red Vic Movie House, 1727 Haight St. Info: 415-668-3994; www.redvicmoviehouse.com; www.globalgriot.com

Mon 19

Peter Mintun/CMC Benefit @ University Club

Pianist Peter Mintun, who performed in San Francisco's leading hotels for a quarter of a century, returns to headline "A Salute to the Joy of Making Music," this year's annual fundraising event for Community Music Center (CMC), a SF-based nonprofit organization. Mintun relocated to New York in 1999 and has since performed in some of Manhattan's top hotels, as well as part of a concert series at Carnegie Hall. Tonight he will perform "an evening reminiscent of a night at L'Etoile," in honor of his many years performing at SF's Huntington Hotel. Community Music Center was founded in 1921 to make music accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. Last year, CMC provided quality, affordable music instruction to 2350 students and concerts to more than 11,000 people throughout the Bay Area. This year's Community Music Center fundraising event will take place at the University Club on Nob Hill. Bay Area television personality Terry Lowry will emcee the evening and host a live auction featuring vacations, fine wine and unique art. CMC student and faculty musical talent will also be showcased. Proceeds raised from the evening will benefit the CMC Scholarship Fund. \$150. Info/tix: 415-647-6015; www.sfmusic.org

Thu 22

Tubesteak Connection @ Aunt Charlie's Lounge

Straight from the armpit of SoMa to the bowels of the TL, incorrigible retro-electro vinyl addict DJ Bus Station John ("Trash") continues the downward spiral of his career with his new weekly club "The Tubesteak Connection" at Aunt Charlie's Lounge. Get liquored up cheap (\$2.50 well/bell all nite) and cruise your fellow fudgepackers, rug rouchers, self-suckers, camel grinders and crotch-surfers to the synthesized sounds of a forgotten era: late '70s/early '80s gay bar & bathroom sleeve n' cheeze, including Hi-NRG, Eurodisco, electrofunk, disco rareties and more. \$3 (free 64 10pm; NO-TAFLOF), 9pm-2am. 133 Turk St. (btwn Jones & Taylor). Info: www.auntcharlies-lounge.com

'Underpants Party' @ New Langton Arts

Check your pants at the door at "Underpants Party!" — a Langton benefit featuring undergarments decorated, customized, and re-imagined by an international pool of artists. Organized by Eamon Ore-Giron and Margaret Tedesco. Nearly 40 video artists, designers, painters, performance artists, sculptors, conceptual artists, writers and spoken word artists have spent the past month stamping their artistic mark on a crisp new pair of white undies. Silk screened, spray painted, photographed, ripped and torn, the underpants provide the backdrop as Langton's downstairs space is transformed into a debaucherous discotheque. "Underpants Party!" gets rolling with sets of dance music by Bay Area electro-innovators Crack: We are Rock and Tussle, as well as a special performance by Madeline Minx of her song "Dance in Your Underpants." DJ Saiman, a visual artist in his own right, mixes an eclectic array of pop, dance and ambient styles in between sets. \$10-\$15 sliding (\$5 members, students, seniors; the first 50 guests to purchase a \$50 Langton membership take home a one-of-a-kind pair of drawers lovingly crafted by a Langton artist. All proceeds directly benefit Langton's artist-run programs). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: 415-626-5416; newlangtonarts.org

Alexis Harte Band @ Slim's

Rock out with the Alexis Harte Band (www.alexishardt.com), Blame Sally (www.blamesally.com) and Megan Slankard (www.meganslankard.com). \$8 cover. 8pm (doors 7:30pm). All ages. Slim's, 333 11th St. Info: 415-255-0333

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

Meet a friend at Badlands



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Photo: StevenUnderhill.com



Timothy Roberts

The Barbary Coast Cloggers kick up their heels at *space 550 as part of Sundance Saloon's 6th Anniversary Celebration. See Sunday.

Sun 18

'Sundance Saloon 6th Anniversary' @ *space550

Celebrate six years of two-steppin' and line dancin' every Sunday! Souvenirs, steaks, cowgirls, cowboys, and plenty of great country-western dancing. Entertainment featuring vocalists Doug Graff and Ed Morgan and The Barbary Coast Cloggers. Sundance Saloon is a nonprofit, all-volunteer enterprise. Free. 6-11pm (dance instruction 6-7:30pm). 550 Barneveld Ave. Info: 415-820-1403; www.sundancesaloon.org

SF Hiking Club @ Bort Meadows

Join other outdoors lovers for a Bort Meadows Hike. Enjoy an easy hike through eucalyptus trees and cow-dotted meadows in the East Bay. A leisurely 6-mile hike with a 680-ft. elevation gain. Meet 10am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolors. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

'Remember' @ Glas Kat

Relive the Trocadero Transfer of the 70s and early 80s! Enjoy discotheque music beautifully choreographed with lights. Re-capture some of that Trocadero Transfer magic at "Remember," a Tea Dance with an entirely retro music format, held in the original Trocadero Transfer space (presently called the Glas Kat and though it's re-modeled, the original spirit of Trocadero is most evident within). D.J. Robbie Leslie (aka "The Gentleman of Disco" from such clubs as The Saint, Studio 54, and the Palladium) will be coming in from Florida to play the event. Two of the original Trocadero lighting people will be working the lights and arc lamp. Fan and flag dancers, and anyone who has tambourines, finger symbols, whistles, claves or any percussion instruments are encouraged to join in and make the night more festive! What made the Trocadero Transfer magic was that it was the ultimate in sound, light and space but most of all it was the group of people that came together to celebrate the dance.



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Reyataz does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:
Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Vascor®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider.

This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription, non-prescription and herbal products you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **A severe buildup of lactic acid in the blood (lactic acidosis syndrome)**, which can cause death, has been reported in patients taking Reyataz with other anti-HIV medicines called nucleoside analogs.
- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.
- **Other common side effects** of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, rash, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, numbness, tingling or burning in hands or feet, and depression.

Ask your doctor how REYATAZ, in HIV combination therapy, can help you
fight HIV your way.

Individual results may vary.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- ◆ **Can help raise your T-cells**
- ◆ **Can help lower your viral load to undetectable***
- ◆ **Low chance of diarrhea** (shown in clinical trials)[†]
- ◆ **Two pills taken once-a-day** (with a snack or meal)

*Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL.

[†]REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 6-8% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

You and your doctor can **fight HIV your way.**


REYATAZTM
 (atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg capsules

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.

RX ONLY**PATIENT INFORMATION****REYATAZ™ (RAY-ah-taz)**
(generic name = **atazanavir sulfate**)
Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4 (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if you also take REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you. Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ and Sustiva® (efavirenz), you should also be taking Norvir® (ritonavir).

- Always take REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Try to take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or Videx® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ is not recommended for use in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

REYATAZ can cause the following side effects:

- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors, while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **If you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.**
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **a serious condition called lactic acidosis syndrome** (a severe buildup of an acid in the blood that sometimes causes death). Some people who have taken REYATAZ with anti-HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues have developed lactic acidosis syndrome. Lactic acidosis syndrome has happened more in people who are female or obese (very overweight). Lactic acidosis syndrome is a medical emergency and must be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away and do not continue to take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines unless instructed to by your healthcare provider if you get any of the following signs of lactic acidosis syndrome:
 - You have persistent nausea, vomiting, or unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort,
 - You feel very weak and tired,
 - You have trouble breathing,
 - You have weakness, especially in your arms and legs.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; rash; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; increased cough; dizziness; trouble sleeping; pain; tiredness; back pain; numbness; tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and joint pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, Methergine®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- Halcon® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- Versed® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- Orap® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- Propulsid® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- Camptosar® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- Vascor® (bepridil, used for high blood pressure).
- Crizivian® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and Crizivian sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), Nexium® (omeprazole), Prevacid® (lansoprazole), Prilosec® (omeprazole), or Protonix® (pantoprazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- Viagra® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with Viagra. Do not use Viagra while you are taking REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate), unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- Lipitor® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: Cordarone® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others).
- Coumadin® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as Elavil® (amitriptyline), Norpramin® (desipramine), Sinequan® (doxepin), Surmontil® (trimipramine), Ioffranil® (imipramine), or Vivactil® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: Sandimmune® or Neoral® (cyclosporine), Rapamune® (sirolimus), or Prograf® (tacrolimus).

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dosing schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- Sustiva® (efavirenz).
- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir).
- Norvir® (ritonavir).
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem® or Tiazac® (diltiazem), Covera-HS® or Isoptin SR® (verapamil) and others.
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin).
- oral contraceptives ("the pill").
- Videx® (didanosine) or antacids.
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as Axid® (nizatidine), Pepcid AC® (famotidine), Tagamet® (cimetidine), or Zantac® (ranitidine).

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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Dancing goddess

The film career of Cyd Charisse

by Tavo Amador

When asked to name his favorite dancing partner, Fred Astaire replied, "Gene Kelly." Astaire's gallantry aside, Cyd Charisse had to be high on his list. He once said, "Oh, that Cyd! When she dances with you, you stay danced." The glorious lady will be appearing at the Castro Theatre on Friday, April 16. Jan Wahl will interview her prior to a screening of Cole Porter's *Silk Stockings* ('57), in which Charisse co-starred with Astaire.

Born (21) Tula Ellice Finklea in Amarillo, Texas, she began ballet lessons as a child. The family moved to Hollywood, and she studied under Nico Charisse, who helped her join Roland Petit's *Ballet Russe* in '35. She toured Europe with the company, and in '39 married Charisse. Back in Hollywood, she met Russian film director/actor Gregory Ratoff, who christened her Lily Norwood and gave her small parts in *Mission to Moscow* and *Something to Shout About* ('43).

MGM signed and renamed her, then gave her a bit in *Ziegfeld Follies*, dancing around Astaire. She had a few lines as one of Judy Garland's *Harvey Girls* and was one of *Three Wise Fools*. Charisse ended '46 with featured billing waiting *Till the Clouds Roll By*

while dancing with Gower Champion. She supported Esther Williams in *Fiesta*, which wasn't, helped Margaret O'Brien through *The Unfinished Dance* ('47), got stranded on *An Island with You* before being showcased in *Words and Music*. A broken leg cost her the self-centered Nadine in the Garland-Astaire smash *Easter Parade* — it went to Ann Miller. She and Miller did a memorable "Dance of Fury" around Ricardo Montalban in Frank Sinatra's *The Kissing Bandit*, one of the worst musicals ever made ('48). MGM put her in a couple of dramas, so she felt *Tension* and traveled *East Side, West Side* ('49), tempting James Mason from Barbara Stanwyck. Divorced from Charisse, she married singer Tony Martin.

A pregnancy lost her the lead opposite Kelly in *An American in Paris* ('51); the part went to another *Ballet Russe* graduate, Leslie Caron. Instead, she and Montalban made *Mark of the Renegade* and she and Stewart Granger felt *The Wind North*. Then came her stunning appearance in *Singin' in the Rain* ('52). Charisse's wordless dance with Kelly created a sensation. Wearing green spike heels and matching short dress, she looked like Aphrodite and danced like Terpsichore. When she wrapped her gorgeous legs around Kelly, she became a cool, elegant femme fatale. No woman

ever danced as well in movies.

Old hat

She followed with another clinker opposite Montalban, *Sombrero*, but then played a ballerina who thinks appearing in a musical is slumming while riding *The Band Wagon* ('53). In it, Charisse danced as memorably with Astaire as she had with Kelly, although she wore flats as not to appear taller than he. Astaire called her "dynamite!" A reunion with Kelly for Vincente Minnelli's *Brigadoon* was dreary. She guested in *Deep in my Heart*, dancing a solo ballet ('54), and returned to Kelly for the disappointing *It's Always Fair Weather* ('55). Her "Frankie and Johnny" number in *Meet Me in Las Vegas* ('56) was the only thing anyone liked. She accepted Kelly's misguided *Invitation to the Dance* before donning *Silk Stockings*, a musical based on *Ninotchka*. The plot, about a Russian Commissar who succumbs to the charms of Paris and Astaire, creaked, and the film only came alive when she danced. It was her last real musical.

Her statuesque good looks kept her before the cameras: opposite Rock Hudson in *Twilight of the Gods* and as Robert Taylor's *Party Girl* ('58), her last under her MGM contract. She played a husband killer enjoying *Five Golden Hours* ('61), a poorly received black comedy with George



Charisse is assured film immortality.

Sanders and Ernie Kovacs. In *Petit's Black Tights*, she danced superbly as an elegant, cheerful widow, and scored as Kirk Douglas's bitchy wife spending *Two Weeks in Another Town* ('62), Minnelli's unsuccessful sequel to *The*

Bad and the Beautiful. She danced for Dean Martin in *The Silencers* ('66), and livened up *Maroc 7* as a fashion editor, before facing *Assassination in Rome* ('67). She guested in *Won Ton Ton, the Dog who Saved Hollywood* ('76), appeared in *Warlords of Atlantis* ('78) and *Portrait of an Escort* ('80), hosted *That's Dancing* ('85), wore a *Swimsuit* ('89) and introduced a segment of *That's Entertainment III* ('94). In the '70s, she and Martin had a nightclub act, and she occasionally toured in musicals. Few of these were worthy of her talents, but it hardly mattered. Her dark beauty and unequalled dancing assured screen immortality. ▼

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SF Film Fest

◀ page 36

America, "to swap the Arab nightmare for the American dream." We meet a Sudanese-born journalist whose dire observations on Arab-American relations are tempered by a Falstaff-like jocularity. He delights in daily verbal jousts with a boyishly handsome Pentagon briefer who is the exact opposite of anybody's idea of an ugly American.

The film acquires a curiously nostalgic tone as we view events of a year ago in the war in Iraq through the prism of our knowledge of how badly things have gone lately. (Kab, 4/16, 18; PFA, 4/17)

Memories of Murder Director Bong Joon-Ho reenacts South

Korea's first serial-killer case, 10 women murdered in 1986 in a small village near Seoul. Pursuing Texas-style justice, the town's cops gleefully torture confessions from hapless suspects, until a big-city detective shows up with more sophisticated methods. Plot surprises abound in this thriller that revels in gruesome crime-scene details, but succeeds with an even more grisly look at the souls of these outside-the-law policemen. (Kab, 4/16, 19)

Chisholm '72 Director Shola Lynch frames a '70s moment: African-American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm's run for the White House. In this 1972 time warp, TV ads blare, "Nixon's the one," Democratic frontrunner Ed Muskie weeps in the snows of New Hampshire, and George Wallace is shot in a Maryland shop-

ping center. Her campaign fueled on Tupperware money, Chisholm runs as the people's candidate, and is largely shunned by black male politicians, with the exception of Ron Dellums. Chisholm's feminist backers share their memories, but the real drama lies elsewhere: a young Willie Brown exhorts Miami's Democratic Convention to "give me back my delegates," a speech whose emotion carries the day for George McGovern. Three decades later, Brown regards Chisholm's bid as an embarrassment to the black power movement. Dellums sheepishly defends abandoning her in Miami, and no female candidate has come close to matching her run. (Kab, 4/18, 19) ▼

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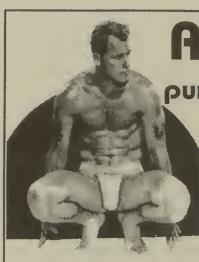
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Victory in 'that toddlin' town'

Joe Arteaga is Mr. Chicago Leather 2004

by Mister Marcus

It was a hot time in the Windy City last weekend as the Second Edition of the Mr. Chicago Leather contest took place on the North Side at the world-famous Touché Bar. The first ever Mr. Chicago Leather, Chuck Windemuth, teamed up with Touché owner Chuck Rodocker and former Cell Block impresario David Boyer to produce an event that brought out a record crowd to see which of the five contestants — Joe Arteaga, Steve Maxey, Dan Mullen, Wayne Nesbitt and Jeff Willoughby — would win the title that had been missing from the Chicago leather scene for so many years.

At least a half-dozen leather titheholders were on hand for the "Meet & Greet" on Friday and the contest on Saturday, where they watched judges Thom Domkowski, Paul "Titpig" Yinger, Rick Storer and former IML Mike Taylor perform their tasks. It was fun joining the judging panel.

A special added attraction, IML John Pendal, was the master of ceremonies, and he gave the audience and the producers their money's worth with lots of humor, panache and a few good-natured barbs aimed at fun-loving individuals.

The world's biggest pig, Brian-Mark Conover, was the "den daddy" and official IML photographer Ron Volanti was on hand to capture the scene as only he can.

Scores of volunteers helped make the weekend event a success.

After the mandatory scoring segments — judging interviews, leather image, jock appearance and speeches — Tally Master Adrian Williams delivered the envelopes to the MC. Total silence prevailed as the second runner-up was announced: Steve Maxey; the first runner-up was Jeffrey Willoughby.



Joe Arteaga (center) is Mr. Chicago Leather 2004 here with (L) Jeffrey Willoughby the 1st runner-up and (R) Steve Maxey, 2nd runner up at the Touché Bar in Chicago last Saturday night, April 10. Joe will be among the Class of IML 2004 next month.

A huge applause greeted Mr. Chicago Leather 2004, Joe E. Arteaga, who is a 27-year old firefighter and paramedic with more tattoos on his body than you can count.

The cameras flashed, the cheers reached a deafening crescendo and another hopeful's name was added to the burgeoning IML Class of 2004 roster.

It was a joyous night in Chicago, a city with only two leather bars as of Friday. Rumors ran rampant in the Windy City when it was noted that a sign on the door of the Cell Block read: "Closed for Plumbing Repairs" (or words to that effect).

Is this what happens when non-leather people try to run a leather bar? Leatherfolk in Chicago are waiting to see how long it will take to solve the plumbing problems. Stay tuned.

While all this was going on, the Mr. Leather Germany contest was being staged in Berlin at the annual Berlin Easter weekend run. Their contest was on Easter Sunday night so at my deadline I had

not received the results of that competition.

Leather-Master milestone

Congratulations to Leather Masters in San Jose on their anniversary celebration at Renegades last weekend. From all reports, a rousing good time was had by all that attended. Best wishes for continued success, David and Tony (you hunk!).

AEF Awards Gala

If fortunetellers, tarot cards, the occult and an opportunity to support the only leather-oriented AIDS service organization appeal to you, plan now to attend the AIDS Emergency Fund's annual Awards Gala on Sunday, April 25th from 1600 to 2000 at Mighty (119 Utah St. @ 15th & Alameda streets).

General admission is \$90 (and up!). Our own Ren Phoenix-Davis will be among the awardees. For more info, call (415) 558-5699, ext. 3. And by the way, leather people are being sought for spots on the Board of Directors. We don't want it to get TOO vanilla, do we?

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 15

Bare Chest Semi-Finals to determine who of all the winners thus far will grace the 2005 calendar at 2130, Powerhouse. Be there!

Weekend, April 15-19

American Brotherhood Weekend in the DC Metro Area. See column for details.

Friday, April 16

The famed Hole in the Wall saloon celebrates its 10th anniversary tonight from 1700 with food, pins, & rock DJs. It's at 289 8th St. (at Folsom). Info: 431-HOWL; www.holeinthewallsaloon.com

Castro Lions beer/soda bust at the Loading Dock with "romantic bondage", hot-wax demos and cruising galore.

The Exiles of SF present "BDSM & Disabilities," a provocative subject by a panel of disabled women. At the Women's Bldg. You know the rules.

Saturday, April 17

The annual Golden Dildeaux Awards at 2000 at the Eagle Tavern. See why the "naughty" ones are while Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet lampoon deserving queers. \$8 beer/soda bust presented by the Golden Gate Guards.

Tuesday, April 20

Bears of SF will present checks to the beneficiaries of their International Bear Rendezvous (held last February) at 2000 hours at the LGBT Center.

Wednesday, April 21

Underwear Buddies flaunt their "unmentionables" at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the time, place and rules. If not, call 777-HEAD.

Thursday, April 22

Final finals of the 2005 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse. Who will be the 12 finalists? Don't miss this one!

Weekend, April 23-25

Regiment of the Black & Tans Uniform Club of Los Angeles present their annual "Maneuvers" uniform weekend. For details point your browser to www.blackandtans.org. In San Francisco, The 15 Association will have a bar night at the Loading Dock on Friday and their monthly play party on Saturday. For invite, location, cost: (415) 673-0452.

Saturday, April 24

The Hole Bar in San Diego celebrates its 50th — repeat 50th! — anniversary tonight. Not all 50 years have been gay scenes, but it is now and here to stay. It's a (leather) institution in San Diego.

PORN

Department of Excess

by John F. Karr

The tagline for Cazzo Films' *Sex Pigs* is, "Kidnap, rape and drugs in a devastated warehouse." And that about sums it up.

The German movie isn't subtitled, so we're kinda guessing about the plot. But it's pretty simplistic. Drug deals go down. As a reward, kind of a house gratuity, buyers get a lackey to fuck. These guys are locked up in cells, where they package the drugs and fuck each other. Innocent passers-by duck into the seemingly deserted space to fuck, and are then caught by the drug-dealers and fucked. Finally, two guys take some of the drugs and fuck their brains out. Or perhaps I should clarify: they fuck their bottoms out. This is the scene in which the two buddies pump their cocks side by side, before one fucks the other with his pump-encased cock! Well, even with the pump, it's smaller than the dildo he had stuffed up there earlier.

These Cazzo films really work me. I like the gaunt bodies, shaved groins, fat cocks and tight cock-rings of these performers. Although you can find that combination in our local performers, there's some basic difference between these Germans and their American counterparts. Our guys are almost too self-aware. Most of them seem to say, "Look, we're being butch, we're sweating bullets over sex."

The Germans seem less aware of sex as performance art, which adds punch to their pigginess. And they're certainly well-matched to their setting. There's real grit to this abandoned warehouse (it's an oft-used Cazzo setting). Its crumbling masonry and broken windows are authentically funky. The action it seems to encourage makes most American porn seem antiseptic in comparison. There's only one scene of ac-



Sex Pigs: not subtitled, not subtle.

tual kink (the cock-pumping scene also includes dildo action, fisting, and the smack-around torture of balls grossly swollen by pumping), but the straightforward fucking of the other scenes is made sleazier by the performers' attitude and enjoyment. These are bad boys, having a

good old bad time. www.all-worldsvideo.com; (800) 537-8024

Judge Prudy

Director Frank Parker has said that what keeps him in check when filming porno at Factory Video is some advice he got from DJ Slater. "Frank," said the elder statesman of sleaze, "when you're shooting a scene, imagine yourself watching it with a judge in a courtroom."

Slater had that experience. He's faced obscenity charges and lived to tell about it. Now, as an homage to his mentor, Chris Rage, whose most famous movie may be *My Masters*, Slater's made *Your Masters*. He calls it his most excessive film ever. "If they're gonna crucify me for something," he told me, "it'll be for this one."

He certainly won't face charges on technical grounds. At Raging Stallion Studios, Slater has both a decent budget and state-of-the-art facilities. He's made a state-of-the-art scary movie. For *Your Masters*, Slater's assembled a cast that is as fearless as it is fine-looking. We're talking about four big, furry, muscular adult men, joined by smoother and slightly younger Steve Cannon, and even younger, but no less a slouch at sex-pigging, Nick Piston. They're tattooed, pierced, PA'd and trussed up in an arousing array of leathers. The guys start off with a bullishly aggressive suckathon, and quickly escalate from super-butch leathersex to squirting-inducing kink and strenuous, sure-to-shock S&M.

Although there are 11 scenes, each is self-contained, so *Your Masters* isn't as episodic or scattered as Rage could be. On the agenda are insidious cockrings and nutbutting ball-stretchers, bruise-sized dildos, vacuum pumps sucking distended nipples and bloated cocks, and a steel sound not merely inserted up a urethra but pumped viciously within it. There's boot worship, flogging and fisting, candle-wax dripping on quivering hard-ons, ball torture, butt-paddling, more fisting, and about 40 clothespins in parallel lines down torso and legs, tugged from above by a taut web of cord. And, oh yeah, somebody smokes a cigar.

"We're twisted fuckers," someone says in the midst of the torture. And he's right. This is excess for excess' sake, celebrated by some guys who certainly get off on it. I can't reckon how people even figure out that some of this stuff is what they wanna be doing. But it sure makes these guys shoot for the ceiling. www.RagingStallion.com; (877) 327-0707

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

After all, Leather folks started the whole thing!

Bootblacks at ABW

Hordes of leather people will descend upon the Washington Metro Area this weekend (April 15-19) for American Brotherhood Weekend, when the 2004 American Leather Man, Woman, Boy and Girl will be chosen by seasoned judges. As if there isn't enough going on already, ABW has added yet another "segment". Bootblacks from around the country will be on hand to shine your boots and they will donate at least 50 percent of their tips to The Attic LGBTQ Youth Center of Philadelphia. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday at various hours, boy robi, Jim Deuder, "Spanky", Leslie Anderson, Richie Chameroy, Kari LaVecchia, Slaveboy Eddie and Boy Jean will be at a special bootblack area to accommodate your needs.

I'll be judging at ABW all this weekend, so if you're not going to attend, support fundraising efforts in your little corner of the world. I'll bring you the results of all that happens in the nation's capitol. ▶



Feeder contests for the regional Leather Sir/boy events continue. Here are Virginia Leather Sir Mike Sessa and Virginia Leather boy Jeff Pipkin, both chosen at The Garage in Norfolk on April 3. They advance to the Mid-Atlantic Regional competition later this year.

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- Parting Glances
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- Lesbian
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- Couples
- Others

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

Untangle my wand again, please... What do baby names, Bakersfield and the Wizard of Oz have in common? ERAN! Need you to untangle my wand again...Kicking myself for not taking your card. ☎ 71146

Antonio Watergarden 3-13 S.J. We met. You came to my room #14. It was great! Would love to see you again. Bill. ☎ 71147

Bob/Paul Jr flight #18 3/19/04 American Airlines SFO/JFK seat 26J. You were on your way home for your mother's birthday. Me, Asian, seat 25J. Can't forget your smile. Would love to meet you. ☎ 71157

Eros, Monday April 5 10pm You: Tall, lean, hairy, 30'sh, baseball cap. Me: Same, blond/blue, goatee. Your deep gaze and gentle touch still occupy my mind. Our paths crossed for a reason, please call. ☎ 71174

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

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Affectionate Older Men Affectionate, WLM, 6', 165 lbs. I enjoy being with older men over 60 who enjoy lots enjoy cuddling, kissing, & other pleasures. Bearded, rustic-looking, husky, non gym, loners a plus. Poss LTR. No drugs or gay scene, but smoking, it drink OK. ☎ 71158

I Want It All Makes out, intimate sex to nasty fun. I'm uninhibited, clean cut mostly oral bottom. Tall, HIV+, 40's & am looking for a good man 40-50 with a great attitude & large heart to explore. No drugs B.S. ☎ 71159

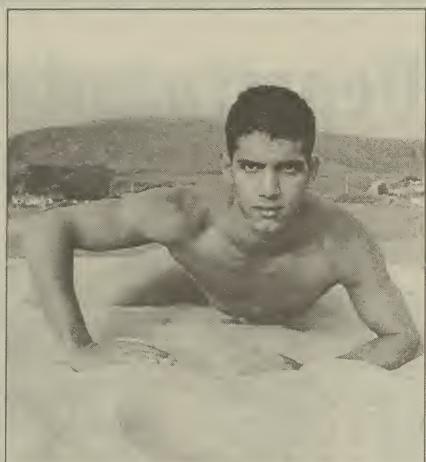
Cocksucking Toilet Slave Seeking one kinky HIV- top who needs regular service. I'm 58, long time gymed attractive and friendly. Love to please my man. Must be non-promiscuous. ☎ 71160

HIV+ 37yrs Straight Looking/Acting I'm looking for a caucasian under 40 that likes movies and quiet and romantic dinners. I'm Latino, 5'7", blk short hair, mustache & goatee. I like hiking, swimming, biking and long walks on the beach & park. ☎ 71155

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Naked or Unclothed? One of is naked, one is clothed. One orders. One obeys. We are both trim, masculine, HIV negative, and under 45. ☎ 71175

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FETISHES

Smokers LM 48, 6', 165 lbs. I'm looking for a regular cigar, pipe or cigarette smoker for sensual times & deep kissing. Prefer men around my age or older that aren't into the gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71151

Spanker Wanted For OTK Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you. No reciprocation required. Me: 159 lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can do scenes. ☎ 71149

Dad Wants Your Ass Clean, healthy, horny 69 yo, masculine GWM top (not versatile) ISO masculine GWM bottom (not versatile). ☎ 71161

Raunchy Hot encounters Wanted GWM, 40, br/gr, 5'11", 178lbs, seeks GWM 40-7 for hot encounters. New to SF area. Dominant tops/bottoms of special interest! Lets connect!?!?. ☎ 71152

East Bay Gay Master Seeks straight slaves. I'll give you what your wife/girlfriend won't. Novices welcome. Your limits repeated. DISCREET, safe and versatile. ☎ 71167

Muscular Caucasian Seeks Asian I'm 46, look younger, work out 4 days a week, wishes to date a smooth, in shape Asian. I'm a nice guy, romantic culture. Not into the bar scene. Please be serious. ☎ 71159

Attention Guys w/Huge Nipples I have a muscular body and into guys with/huge protruding nipples. I love to suck, lick and satisfy you, love great sex! Call and lets get together. ☎ 71168

Mature, Endowed and Dominant Black top seeks mature, masculine and submissive Latin man with dark skin, dark hair and a mustache only. Downtown Oakland/Downtown SF area. No age limit. ☎ 71172

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Phone Fetish Bartime. ☎ 71177

Onyx The Colon Beater Bi male 29 yo, smooth, tattoos and very hung in search of Daddy type who can spoil me in every way. Myself strip, student. E-Mail: onyxcolonbeater@yahoo ☎ 71154

Musical Genius Looking For counterpart. You must be sober cuz I am! I am 32 and in good shape. I like Yoga and writing as well. ☎ 71169

OTHER

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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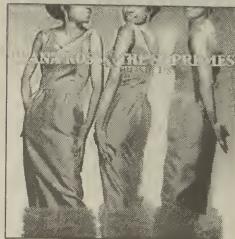
MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PERSONALS

Hitsville

by Gregg Shapiro

I've lost track of how many Diana Ross & The Supremes greatest hits packages have crossed my desk. Let me just say that there have been more than a few. The latest, *The No. 1's (Motown/UTV)*, seems poised to be



tween cashing in on the success of the Beatles and Elvis collections with similar titles, or being ignored like the one released by the beleaguered Michael Jackson. Containing chart-topping songs by the many configurations of the Supremes as well as Diane's own solo smashes, this collection is especially notable for the versions and edits included. Diane's little chuckle and "You guys!" declaration that comes between "You Keep Me Hangin' On" and the drama-queen scene "Love Is Here and Now You're Gone" is different from the version on the 2002 Anthology. For these alternative versions, this somewhat redundant is worth hangin' on to for your personal collection.

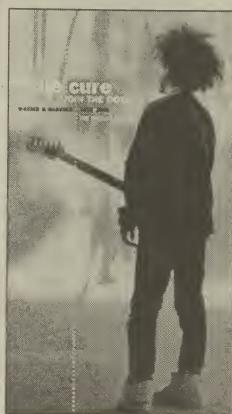
One of the strangest aspects of *The Essential Ray Conniff* (Legacy/Columbia) is the fact that the even as groups such as the Beatles and the Supremes were ruling the early '60s airwaves, Ray Conniff, whose shtick involved wordless choral arrangements of popular tunes set in lush yet airy orchestral arrangements, was sharing space on the same pop charts. Conniff's cocktail music for teetotalers, if you will, was a somewhat more saccharine version of the way the crooners of the era (i.e. Andy Williams) would try their hands at the music the kids were listening to, in an effort to make it safe for their parents. In Conniff's hands, the "noise" the parents complained about became "nice" and a "novelty." Try using the Conniff original "Love Theme from an X-Rated Movie" for your next striptease.

Celebrating its 35th year as a band, Yes is also embarking on an arena tour preparing for the release of the documentary *Yess-peaks*. What better time to release a new multi-disc compilation? *Ultimate Yes* (Elektra/Rhino) features 26 tracks culled from well over a dozen prog-rock albums. Yes' most familiar tunes, "I've Seen All Good People," "Roundabout," "Long Distance Runaround," the massive comeback hit "Owner of a Lonely Heart" and the recent "Magnification" can all be found in this colorful package. The third disc includes both new songs and an acoustic version of "Roundabout."

Vision quest

The revamped and reissued David Bowie box set *Sound+Vision* (EMI/Virgin) also acknowledges Bowie's 35 years in the music biz. More sound than vision; the original video-containing CD-ROM has been dispensed with in favor of later musical tracks. The four discs of music

involved resequencing the original box, which definitely alters the mood of presentation. The set opens with the original demo version of 1969's "Space Oddity" and closes with a handful of '93 selections (including "Jump They Say"), leaving off Bowie's short-lived Virgin years (*Outside, Earthling, Hours*). Most notable for its oddities (live versions, outtakes), *Sound+Vision* is at the very least the sound of a visionary.



Any question of a link between Bowie and The Cure can be answered by the band's cover of "Young Americans," which can be found on the four-disc box set *Join the Dots: B-Sides & Rarities, 1987-2001 - The Fiction Years* (Fiction/Elektra/Rhino). Smith says about recording "YA" for the London radio station 104.9 XFM, "I'd always fancied doing a Bowie cover properly." Cure fans are certain to find some of their hard-to-find favorites on this thorough compilation, which speaks volumes about the songs that don't make it onto albums, but still deserve a chance to be heard by a wide audience.

Natalie Merchant's metamorphosis from near-punk waif into graceful and magnetic front-person is one of the most compelling aspects of *Campfire Songs: The Popular, Obscure & Unknown Recordings* (Elektra/Rhino), the long-awaited 10,000 Maniacs compilation. From early REM-influenced college-radio tracks such as "Planned Obsolescence" and "My Mother the War" to gorgeous, sophisticated hits like the breakthrough smash "What's the Matter Here," Merchant's evolution is in itself a remarkable event. As indicated by 10,000 Maniacs' cover of the Patti Smith/Bruce Springsteen collaboration "Because the Night," Merchant and company had impeccable taste in cover tunes. Further evidence is the second disc of the set, most of which is terrific interpretations of songs such as "Peace Train," "Wildwood Flower," "To Sir with Love," "Everyday Is Like Sunday," and "Let the Mystery Be."

Ten years after 10,000 Maniacs formed, Stone Temple Pilots arrived on the grunge wave that crashed against the shores of the early '90s, bringing screaming guitars and troubled frontman Scott Weiland with them. Weiland's legend continues to fascinate, and is presented in its best light on the hits collection *Thank You* (Atlantic). Both the plugged and unplugged versions of "Plush" are included here, as are "Vaseline," "Big Empty," and "Interstate Love Song." ▶

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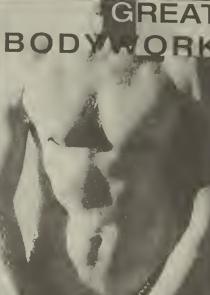
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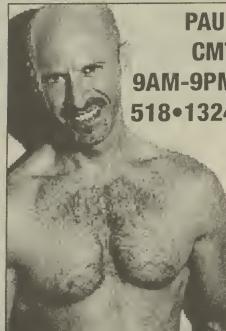


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E19

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